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Czech minister arrives for trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dalouhi arrived in Amman Saturday for a 24-hour visit to Jordan and talks with government ministers on economic and trade relations. The Czech minister, who was received at the airport by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, will be holding meetings with Dr. Khalaf as well as the ministers of finance, agriculture, water and irrigation, planning, energy and mineral resources. He is also scheduled to discuss launching joint Czech-Jordanian joint ventures and will address a press conference Sunday to sum up the outcome of his visit to Jordan. The Czech minister is accompanied by a delegation representing the private and public sectors and major industries in his country.



Number 5796

AMMAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1994, RAJAB 15, 141S

Fikret Abdic forces take Velika Kladusa^a

ZAGREB (R) — Troops loyal in dissident Muslim leader Fikret ZAGREB (R) — Troops loyal in dissident Muslim leader Fikret Abdic Saturday captured the northwestern Bosnian town of Velika Kladusa from Bosnian government forces, a U.N. source said here. Lying to the north of Bihac town in the Bihac pocket. Velika Kladusa fell after a month-long infensive to Abdic's furces, backed by separatist Croatian Serb troops, the U.N. source said. Requesting anonymity, the U.N. source cited a report by a U.N. military observer stationed near the town defended by the 5th Bosnian army costs. U.N. Portection Force trookerman in Zarsch. military observer stationed near the town detended by the 5th Bosnian army corps. U.N. Protection Force spokesman in Zagreb, Thant Myint-U, told AFP that Bangladeshi U.N. forces based just south of Velika Kladusa "believe that the town or part of the town is under the control of Abdic's forces." But he added: "We cannot confirm that Velika Kladusa has fallen." The rebel Muslim and Croatian Serb forces began their offensive in mid-November to regain control of the town which Bosnian government incress captured last August. However in Sarajevo U.N. Protection Force spokesman Lt.-Col. Jan-Dirk von Merveldt would not confirm that the town had fallen. that the town had fallen.

Palestinian envoy lauds

Majali's statements

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine Embassy in Am-

man Saturday welcomed statements made by Prime

Minister Abdul Salam Majali

at a press conference Friday

following his return from the

Casahlanca Islamic confer-

Omar Khatib, the Pales-

tine charge d'affaires and

representative of the Pales-

tine National Authority in

Jordan said that he fully sup-ported Dr. Majati's state-

ment in which the prime

minister said he saw no dis-

pute or differences between

the positions of the Jordanian

and Palestinian leaderships.

Jordanian people form one single family and if there

were any differences between

them, they should be the

subject of dialogue and dis-

cussion among brothers who

have a unique relationship," said Mr. Khatih in a state-

ment issued Saturday. Mr. Khatih lauded His

Majesty King Hussein's stand

and that of the government

and people of Jordan towards

the Holy City of Jerusalem

voicing appreciation for the

King's services and care for

"The Palestinian and

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

the city.
He said that the Palestinian

people will remain faithful to

Jordan and can never forget

that Jordan has no desire for

begemony over the holy city.

Palestinian autonomy is ex-

tended; and onr role is not political," the prime minister

stressed adding he saw no differences between the

Palestinian and the Jordanian

leaderships. Dr. Majali noted

that Jordan's trusteeship of

the Holy Shrines has existed

before and after the 1967 war

and after the 1988 severance

of the legal and administra-

tive ties with the West Bank.

statement that "we do not

want to see the enemies of

the Jordanian-Palestinian un-

ity exploit the situation by

misinterpreting the affair and

projecting the Jerusalem

issue as a bone of conten-

He said: "There is no dis-

pute or differences whatsoev-

er between Jordan and Pales-

tine over the question of

Jerusalem."

Mr. Khatih said in his

We are the trustees until

its supportive stand. At the press conference Friday, Dr. Majali stressed

Government raises pension of military, civil retirees

Officers 25%, soldiers 22.5%, civil servants 17.5%

AMMAN (J.T.) - Acting upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, the government Saturday announced it was raising the pension of military and civilian retirees and will draft laws to this effect and forward it to the Lower House of Parliament.

The decision, made during a Cabinet meeting, would raise by 25 per cent the pension of a military officer and 22.5 per cent the pension of soldiers.

Civilian retirees will have their annual pension increased by 17.5 per cent effective as of Dec. 1. Finance Minister Sami Gammoh told the Jordan Times that only those who retire after Dec. 1 would henefit from the raise

the basic salaries of the pensioners. Following the govern-ment statement, Minister of Information Jawad Anani told Jordan Television the increases in the pensions would cost the Treas-

ary nearly one million di-

MANAMA (R) - Gulf

Arab foreign ministers on

Saturday drew up the agenda

for the annual meeting of their heads of state, dubbed

by host country Bahrain as a

The Bahrain-hased Gulf

News Agency (GNA) said

the ministers discussed the

latest Gulf and Arab de-

velopments and the Middle

East peace process. It gave

no details of the summit

Relations with Iran and

Iraq and ways of boosting the

security of the Gulf Coopera-

tion Council (GCC) are ex-

pected to be at the top of the

agenda of the summit, which

is overshadowed hy border

disputes between some of its

Asked if the foreign minis-

ters discussed border issues in

the region, Bahrain's foreign

minister Sheikh Mohammed

Bin Muharak Al Khalifa told

GNA "the summit will dis-

cuss issues of interest to the

CAIRO (AFP) - The cease-

fire lines between Israel and

its Arab neighbours before

the 1967 Middle East war

must form the basis of peace

in the region, Egyptian Fore-

ign Minister Amr Monsa said

"The (ceasefire) lines of

Sune 5, 1967, form the basis

and the essence of the princi-

ple of land-for-peace," Mr. Mousa told reporters.

Israel's Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin proposed a "new

share-out" of territory be-

tween Israel and the Palesti-

Mr. Rahin told Israeli

radio Thursday that Israel

He was speaking after

Saturday.

nians.

members, delegates said.

goodwill summit.

agenda.

which will be calculated on

nars in fiscal 1995. The government acted

on this issue two days after His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan sent a message to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali expressing the King's wish to improve the living standards of retired servicemen and civil servants. Also Saturday, the

Conncil of Ministers announced that in implementation of an earlier Royal directive the government was granting teachers a 25 per cent cost of living allowance on their basic salaries, starting at the be-ginning of 1995. The gov-ernment will also introduce a housing scheme for teachers.

Dr. Majali sent the King a message voicing the government support for the King's initiative and informing him of the Cabinet

Dr. Majali said in his message:

"The Council of Ministers deeply appreciates Your Majesty's continued

GCC summit agenda finalised

He said the ministers dis-

cussed reports on political.

issues and economic coopera-

tion between member states.

Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al

Khalifa in an interview pub-

lished on Friday described

the meeting, due to start on

Monday, as "a summit of

goodwill towards a unified Gulf."

The summit comes weeks

after Iraq recognised the

sovereignty and independ-ence of Kuwait within bor-

ders defined by the United

Nations following Baghdad's 1990 invasion of the emirate.

Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain,

Qatar, Oman and the United

Arab Emirates - welcomed

the Iraqi move hut some

wanted Iraq to comply with all other relevant U.N. re-

solntions before the lifting of

hint of a softening in its posi-

would not return to the bor-

ders of before the 1967 war,

implying parts of the West Bank which Israel now occu-

The ceasefire lines he-

tween Israel and neighbour-

ing Arah countries were fixed

in 1949, after the first Arab-

During the 1967 war

"which began on June 5,

1967, Israel captured the

Sinai desert and Gaza Strip

from Egypt, the Golan

Heights from Syria, and the

West Bank and East Jeru-

The U.N. Security Council

adopted Resolution 242 in

November 1967 which stated

that a just and lasting peace

salem from Jordan.

pied would be annexed.

Israeli war.

Egypt: Pre-67 border basis for peace

Saudi Arabia, in the first

II.N. trade sanctions.

GCC members - Saudi

The emir of Bahrain

Gulf region."

care for the Jordanian Armed Forces, the shield that protects the nation, and civil servants who constitute the hackbone for the country's socio-economie

Dr. Majali said that his government had responded to the Royal directives and was introducing draft laws to Parliament ensuring the pension raise to be offered to the servicemen and re-

tired civil servants. He said that the "Royal gesture was bound to help improve the living conditions of the Jordanian peo-

ple."
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces General Abdnl Hafez Kaahneh sent the King a message of gratitude for his order to raise the pension of the retired servicemen.

Gen. Kaabneh pledged that the Armed Forces would remain loyal to the Hashemite throne serving as a shield defending the nation and ensuring its

tion on Iraq, said on Thurs-

day a quick end was needed

to the disarray in Arab ranks

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal also

told reporters after the end of

an Islamic summit in Moroc-

co this week that he foresaw

an end to Iraq's isolation hy the time Mushm leaders met

again in Iran in three years'

Saudi Arabia, the higgest

oil producer in the Organisa-

tion of Petroleum Exporting

Countries, was a main ally of

Knwait during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and has strongly

opposed the easing of sanc-

tions against Iraq, including

an oil embargo.

A territorial dispute be-

tween the UAE and Iran

over three islands in the Gulf

and GCC suspicions of

Tehran's armament prog-

ramme are expected to be.

discussed by the heads of

include Israel's withdrawal

from territories occupied in

self-declared "security zone"

in southern Lebanon since

Israel has also occupied a

Mr. Mousa also said Arabs

Asked about the prospects

summit this week, Mr.

wounded the Arabs who

need guarantees" that such

"acts will not be repeated."

the recent conflict.

sion of Kuwait.

1982.

caused by iraq's invasion.

message from President Fidel Castro (Petra His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzales at the Royal Court. Mr. Gonzales delivered a photo)

King receives Gonzales:

Jordan, Cuba discuss proposed trade

Majesty King Hussein Satur-day received at the Royal Conrt the visiting Cuhan Foreign Minister, Roherto Gonzales, and reviewed with him the Middle East and world

The Cuban minister, who delivered a written message to the King from Cuhan President Fidel Castro, reviewed Cuhan-Jordanian economic relations and discussed with King Hussein ways for enhancing bilateral ties.

Mr. Gonzales was quoted hy the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as expressing his delight at meeting with the King, noting that discussions mainly centred on economic ties. The meeting was

attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Gonzalez met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Mr. Al Hassan and discussed prospects of concluding an agreement on trade exchanges and educational and technical cooperation.

The prime minister reviewed the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the Kingdom's policies in the region, as well as its endeavours to advance relations with Arab

and foreign countries, The Council of Ministers last Tuesday approved a draft agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation with Cuba which is to he

signed during Mr. Gonzalez' visit here.

Dr. Majali said this agree-ment entails encouraging the exchange of economic expertise and measures to facilitate economic and trade exchanges between the two countries. Mr. Hassan earlier met

with Mr. Gonzalez and exchanged views on bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Hassan is expected to sign the Cuhan-Jordanian agreement with Mr. Gonzalez as authorised by the Cabinet.

Mr. Gonzalez arrived here Saturday on a several-day

in Mafraq accident By Rana Husseini Mahmoud Ali Diah. According to officials at Special to the Jordan Times Mafraq Government Hos-AMMAN - Three people pital, 30 people were were killed and 35 injured admitted to the hospital inearly Saturday morning, in a hus accident on the Mafraq-Irhid road near Muthalath Al Mansourah, cluding two of the deceased. The official told the Jordan Times that most victims police and Civil Defence were listed in good condi-Department (CDD) re-

3 killed, 35 injured

ports said. A police official told the Jordan Times that the accident, which occurred at about 8:10 a.m., was the re-

sult of speeding. He said the accident occurred when the driver of the 58-passenger bus, Kamal Salem Jaber, lost control of the vehicle on the wet and slippery road, slid to the left lane and slammed into an oncoming trailer hauling cement.

"The strong impact caused the hus to roll over several times," the official told the Jordan Times. He said the driver of the

hus and the driver of the trailer. Damam Mohammad Shalash, were unhurt. All casualties were rushed by police and CDD units to four hospitals around Irbid. Three were pronounced dead on arrival. A few cases were trans-

ferred to King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman. The deceased were identified by the CDD as: Alla Ali Mohammad, Sami Adnan Hassan and

tion and are expected to leave hospital soon. According to officials at Princess Basma Hospital, 15 casualties were admitted there on Saturday, includ-

ing the third deceased.
"We only have one person listed in serious condition, and that patient is currently in the ortho-

paedic section but is expected to survive," the official said. He said the rest of the casualties were transferred to Idoon Military Hospital

in Irhid and King Hussein Medical Centre. This is the seventh reported accident involving passenger huses in the same month. On Dec. 1

Kingdom since May 1 and the second reported in the nine people were killed and 28 injured in an accident . involving a hus carrying pilgrims from the West Bank on their way to Saudi Ara-

The seven accidents since May 1 resulted in 51 deaths and injury to more than 180

Dudayev agrees to talk

in cooperation with the Society of Liver Sharif Nasser (Petra photo)

were divided among them-GROZNY (Agencies) selves after Iraq's 1990 inva-Chechnya's separatist leader Dzhokhar Dndayev told Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Saturday he was ready for of improved inter-Arab relatalks as Moscow's midnight tions after the Organisation deadline for Chechen fighters of the Islamic Conference to disarm neared. A journalist in Mr. Mousa said the invasion

Dudayev's presidential palace in the breakaway region's capital Grozny, contacted by telephone from Moscow, quoted a Dudayev telegram to the Kremlin as saving that the Chechen leader himself was ready to head a peace delegation.

"I agree with your proposal to start negotiations without any preconditions and to personally head a government delegation of the repubhe (for talks)," Mr. Dudayev was quoted as saying in a telegram to Mr. Yeltsin sent at nine p.m. (1800 GMT).

Mr. Dudayev also said he had ordered his forces to stop hostilities against Russian forces and to cease all Chechen troop movements in the breakaway region, where Russia sent troops on Dec. 10 to crush its three-year inde-pendence bid. "I am addressing you with the proposal for a similar step," the telegram

Russia's powerful security council had invited Mr. Dndayev to talks after a

But Chechen Vice-President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said Mr. Dndayev had rejected the invitation for the talks in the north Ossetian town of Mozdok, which were scheduled for six p.m. (1500 GMT). Mr. Dudavev's latest proposal for talks could not be confirmed independently.

Earlier in the day Mr. Dudayev ordered his troops to "fight to the death" to save the Caucasus republic from imminent Russian interven-

ment chief Abudakar Khatuiyev said Mr. Dudayer had issued the formal order at a meeting Saturday evening with the heads of Chechen army units, just hours ahead of the expiry of Russia's ulti-matum for Chechen troops to lay down their arms hy mid-night (2100 GMT) or face annihilation.

The meeting was called to fine-tune the strategy for de-fending the Chechen capital

Russian deputy prime minister Nikolai Yegorov

dered their weapons by mid-

"If the ... regime undertakes no adequate measures to disarm the illegal armed formations in Chechnya by 00:00 hours, the Russian troops will bomb or deliver a missile strike at the strategie ohejectives in Grozny,' Yegorov said in a statement from the Moscow press centre handling the Chechnya

Russia refuses to recognise the independence Mr. Dudayev unilaterally proclaimed for Chechnya in 1991 amid the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Chechnya's president earlier snuhbed an invitation to attend a last-ditch meeting at 6:00 p.m. (1500 GMT) Saturday in the North Ossetian town of Mozdok, where he would have received the bombardment ultimatum from Russian deputy prime minister Nikulai Yegorov and counter-intelligence chief Sergei Stepashin.

Announcing in Grozny Mr. Dudayev's refusal to meet with the Russian delegation, his spokesman Movladi Udugov had said earlier: "President Dudayev does not deal with thugs, and will not go to

PNA rejects Israeli offer for limited pullout cessions to the Palestinians.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's autonomy government on Saturday dismissed Israel's offer of a limited troop withdrawal in the West Bank as a violation of the Israel-PLO peace accord.

"The cabinet views the Israeli positions as very dangerous ... the Israelis want to change the basis of the agreement, especially regarding the redeployment of Israeli troops outside of the populated areas," said a statement issued after the weekly cabinet meeting in the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip.

Under the antonomy accord, Israeli troops were to pull out of Palestinian towns in the West Bank on the eve of Palestinian general elections, originally scheduled for July 1994.

But Israeli Prime Minister Vitzhak Rabin is worried that a departure of his troops will make it easier for Muslim militants to carry out attacks among the 120,000 Jewish

settlers in the West Bank. There has been a rash of attacks on Israelis in recent weeks, eroding public sup-port in Israel for further con-

Israeli reserve soldier was severely beaten by Palestinians when be took a wrong turn and his car got stuck in a traffic jam in the West Bank town of Ramaliah. Pictures of the stunned sol-

Earlier this week, an

dier, blood streaming down his face, covered the front pages of Israeli newspapers the following day and set off a fresh public debate on whether the Palestinians are a partner for peace.

Deputy Defence Minister

Mordechai Gur, asked Saturday to comment on the incident, told Israel radio, "this explains why we are so worried about our redeployment vis-a-vis the elections. "You have to remember

that part of the ... agreement is security, and if the Palestinians will not be able to deliver the goods, there is a real danger to the process," Mr. Gur added. Israel has said it supports

bolding elections as soon as possible, and some progress on the nature of elections was made when negotiators from both sides met for two days in Cairo this week.

. millionaire : cannot even give it away

Bahrain Riots continue in injuries. dispersed Shiite villages of

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)

— Groups of young Shiite

Muslims on Saturday tossed stones at police squads deployed to contain continuing unrest spurred by the arrest of a favourite preacher.

The U.S. embassy, meanwhile, advised Americans to avoid densely-populated areas such as the souk, where the first troubles were reported earlier in the week. The focus Saturday was in the suburhan area of Sanabis, about five kilometres away

from the main road to the

Meridien Hotel where

Bahrain began hosting the Gulf Cooperation Council's nual conference. Eyewitnesses reported tear gas fumes from a distance as the police drove back a number of young men who were trying to move out from the Sanabis.

Two bystanders said stonethrowing youths Friday night lured a Pakistani policeman into chasing them down a narrow street, then killed him with a boulder. The witnesses spoke on condition of anony-

Pakistanis make up a large percentage of the police force m a country where foreigners form half the 500,000-strong population.

There has been no official statement on the disturbances and no government comment on claims that dozens of ringleaders have been detained by police.

Diplomats said the demonstrators had inflicted some damage on government and private property and cars, and there have been some

More than half of the native Bahrain population is be-lieved to be of the Shiite sect, while the ruling family is from Islam's Sunni Muslim

Over most of the past week, groups of Shiites have been attempting to demonstrate for the release of Sheikh Ali Salman, a 28-year-old militant Shiite preacher, who was arrested earlier in the month. Demonstrations are forbidden.

He also had been picked up briefly earlier this year for allegedly instigating young Shiites to demonstrate against unemployment.

In recent weeks, Sheikh Salman was said to be campaigning for a return of an clected parliament. (see earlier story on page 2)

meeting on Saturday in the hospital where Mr. Yeltsin is recovering from an operation to his nose.

CONCERT FOR GOOD CAUSE: Her Majes- Disease Patients of Jordan at the Philadelphia

ty Queen Noor Saturday attends a concert Hotel. The concert, the proceeds of which will

organised by the National Music Conservatory benefit the society, was attended by Hind

Assistant security depart-

Grozny.

warned here that Grozny would be bombarded unless the Chechens had surren-

Riots bring change to Bahrain

NICOSIA (AFP) -Bahrain's ruling emir promised Saturday to give his appointed consultative council a greater role but failed to meet demands by rioting Shiite Muslims for an end to the 20-year dissolution of parliament.

Crack security forces were out in strength as calm was reported following the higgest riots since the former British protectorate gained independence in 1971.

Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa said in a speech to mark his 33rd anniversary of coming to power: "We encourage the consultative process... and we are determined to im-prove this body to meet the aspirations of the people."

The 30-member consultative council was appointed hy the emir in 1992 hut it only has an advisory role and no legislative powers.

The emir retains complete control over the council appointing all the members who are leading husinessmen as well as former MPs.

It was set up after the emir dismissed the national assembly in 1975 which had only been elected two years previously. He blamed MPs for "obstructing" the govern-

Interior ministry security forces were posted Saturday on the edges of the main Shiite areas of the country after riots which erupted on Monday were reported to

have spread to other cities. Police armed with assault rifles, grenades, truncheons and teargas were also stationed in front of the main installations in the capital Manama, witnesses contacted from Nicosia said.

Demonstrators and police have been hurt in running battles with the special forces using teargas and ruhher hullets to disperse crowds armed with iron bar and stones.

But no official toll has been given out, and so far Bahraini authorities have remained tight-lipped about the

The rioters have demanded the release of Muslim Shiite leader. Sheikh Ali Salman, arrested after calling for the restoration of parliamentary life in a message signed by about 20 Bahraini Shiite and Sunni Muslim intellectuals.

It urged the emir to "reinstate the national assembly. organise free elections and fight unemployment." An Arah diplomat in the Gulf told AFP the riots were tent among the Shiite population which feels wronged and frustrated.

'The Shiites on the archipelago are practically out of the political scene and ate not allowed to hold any key posts, especially in the army and police."

He added that the demonstrations "were purely poli-

The Sunni Muslim government has said the Shiite Muslims only tepresents 35 per cent of the population, but Western diplomats have put the figure at more than 55 per About 100 Shiites were

arrested in December 1981 after the discovery of a plot aimed at toopling the country's leadership and hacked by Iran, according to Man-

Sheikh Ali Salman returned to Bahrain a few months ago from the holy Shiite city of Qom in Iran where he had been studying theology. Bahrain and four other

Gulf monarchies in the Gulf peace on earth and goodwill Cooperation Council -Saudi Arabia, the United Arah Emirates, Qatar and Oman - all have consultative councils. Only Kuwait

Freij says peace changed Christmas

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) - At the Bethlehem olive wood factory, the automatic lathe was grinding out Christmas creches Friday under the eyes of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

His poster went up seven months ago, when workers' anticipated their first holiday season under self-rule. But they feel little has changed. tinging their yuletide with disappointment.

"We want it to be out own

Christmas, we expected to celebrate a Palestioian Christmas as Palestinians," said Factory owner George Handal. "But we haven't seen anything different yei. Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, the minister of tourism in Mr. Arafat's self-rule government, believes the town is anocipating change too fast. The key difference is that

after 27 years of occupation. the prince of peace may get a hearing.

This is the first time people are talking about peace and not war." he told the Associated Press and APTV. The message of Christmas is

toward all people. That is what we want. But an Israeli army outpost in Manger Square, sur-rounded by a 20-foot-high expected 30,000 pilgrims will pass through metal detectors



A combat-booted Palestinian Santa Churs rings his bell, passing some Israeli border guards in front of the Church of Saturday (AFP photo) the Nativity in Bethlehem

chicken wire fence, made Christmas joy more elusive to other Bethlehem residents. Israel takes extra security measures on Christmas. Vehicles are banned and the

on their way to the maio square in front of the Church of the Nativity, built over the grotto where it is believed Jesus was born.

"We are responsible for insuring that the festivities run smoothly," said Maj. El-

ise Shazar, spokeswoman for the Israeli military government. She said Israel was concerned "that extremists will take advantage of the

Amidst occasional clashes between stone-throwing youths and soldiers, Bethlehem is trying to resurrect the holiday atmosphere that prevailed before the Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation that started seven

Coloured lights and metallic streamers shaped like Christmas trees hang from lampposts alongside the oational flags. Last year they caused tension with Israel but this year are an accepted trapping of hudding self-rule. Inflatable Saotas and Christmas trees cavort io the

wind in front of many shops. Despite the festive trappiogs, residents say the only real change will be the boy scout hands playing the Palestinian anthem. "I as a Christian, for the

past five years have been unable to attend mass in the Church of the Nativity hecause I could not get a persaid student Elias Huzineh, 23, who expects a

similar problem this year. Residents grumble that during Christmas Israeli solnumber the pilgrims, but Mr. Freij dimisses such com-

plaints.
"We can have a Palestinian Christmas when security is in our hands... let's hope in a year or so." the mayor said. Israel is reevaluating its commitment to move troops from West Bank cities before the next step in the peace process. Palestinian elec-

The government fears that the army will not be able to protect 120,000 settlers living among over one million Palestinians. Press reports said Friday that the troop withdrawal might start from towns where there are no settlers, iocludiog Beth-

On Bethlehem's outskirts, Father Michael teods one of the sites where the shepherds are believed to have first heard of the miracle hirth. Real peace between Arabs and Jews here will ta**ke** another miracle." he said.

"It is still a sombre town. People are waiting for this miracle so they can be joyful again," noted the bearded Franciscan mook. "This would be the best way to celehrate the hirth of our saviour, with a revival of peace and joy."

Kuwait studies reforms for its health sector

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is planning to reform its health sector by privatising some hospitals or turning them over to foreign management to improve medical services, the emirate's bealth minister

Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Mheilan told Reuters in a recent interview that Kuwait was also studying plans to introduce fees for some services to rationalise the use of medical facilities.

"We do not bury our heads. in the sand, there are negative matters to be addressed," he said. "There is a system, a budget, human resources and utilities. We want to mould those for better health services.

Health officials said dened by bureaucracy and doctors were unable to cope with patient loads, exaggerated by those seeking free treatment for minor ailments. Many doctors left Kuwait

after Iraq's 1990 invasion and have oot heen replaced. The emirate has 69 clinics, five private hospitals and 17 state hospitals, mostly staffed

by foreigners. It provides free medical servies to all Gulf Arabs while othes, mainly Arah and Asian workers, receive free essential services, such as non-cosmetic operations and emergency treatment.

Kuwaiti deputies have often said that confidence in Kuwait's medical services

Mr. Mheilan said the ministry was considering a

two-year trial period of changes to improve health services for Kuwait's 1.7 million population, mostly fore-

ign guest workers. He said options included privatising some state hospitals and allowing specialised foreign firms to manage

"There are pilot studies to ve a full small hospital to full foreign management. There is also an idea to give specialised sections_ in .ooe hospital to foreign manage-

"Also the private sector ... we will give it a chance to bring people (doctors) and new ideas," he said. "For instance we are cur-

rently studying an idea with some Kuwaiti investment companies that they can take a hospital and tecovate it and run it as a private sector (bospital).

Mr. Mheilan said all residents will soon be charged for some services. The fees are expected to be in palce after the approval of the 1995/96 budget which starts on July I. he said.

'The government is thinking that citizens and residents should contribute to the costs of services," he said.

Many of the emirate's Asian and Arab guest workers bring relatives and friends to receive free treatment in Kuwait. Visitors would pay higher fees," Mr. Mheilan

He said the ministry also wanted to limit the number of Kuwaitis who request to be sent abroad for medical treat-

Clinton urges Americans to build on Mideast peace

USIA

WASHINGTON - President Bill Cliotoo, in his annual Christmas message. urged Americans to build on progress toward peace in the Middle East and to reach out to others in friendship and love at bome and ahroad.

"In holy Bethlehem and throughout the Middle East, ancieot enemies are putting aside their differences and coming together in goodwill. Recognising that there is still much work to be done, let us huld on... this success and nurture, ment," Mr. Mheilan said. love and, caring in out world, in our neighbour-, hoods and in our homes," the message said.

Following is the text of the president's Christmas message, which was issued by the White House Dec.

15: "Warm greetings to" Americans everywhere during this joyous Christ-The nimeless story of a

hahy born in a manger amid humble surroundings is the fulfillment of a promise, an affirmation of faith. Jesus' birth demonstrates the infinite love of God. We celebrate the gift of His life, and Christmas softens our hearts and rekindles in us a sincere desire to reach out to others in peace and friendship.

As we rejoice in the miracle of Christmas, we reflect on the Holy Family and, draw strength from their example of faith. We are remioded that the bonds between parent and child, between husband and wife, and between neighbour and stranger are opportuoities to answer

Jesus' call to love ooe another, and we are reminded that one day we will be asked whether we lived out His love in ways that treated all of our hrothers and sisters - even the least of them - as we would have treated Him.

In Holy Bethelehem and throughout the Middle East; ancient enemies are puttiog aside their differences and coming together in goodwill. Recognisiog that there is still much work to be dooe, let us huild on this success and ourture love and caring io, our world, in our neighbour-hoods, and in our homes, With this commitment, we can all share in the fulfillment of the Christmas

Hillary joins me in wishing you joy and peace this Christmas.

Ashrawi stresses need for Palestinian accountability

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Hanan Ashrawi has stressed the urgent need for establishing a system of accountability in the Palestinian selfrule areas and expressed the belief that the projected elections could generate a healthy democratic dehate. Otherwise, the Mideast

peace process is in trouble. The articulate Palestinian who served as a spokesperson for the Palestiman negotiating team during the Washing-ton peace talks was speaking Dec. 13 at the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine (CPAP) in her oew capacity as commissioner geoeral of the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Independent Commis-sion for Citizens Right.

Throughout her talk she avoided any direct criticism of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, noting that traositional phases are by definition difficult. She pointed out that the situation within the self-rule areas will not change with the replacement of ooe persoo with another.

She reiterated her belief in the peace process "provided it is being implemented ge-nuinely" hut, she said, the agreements are being eoforced at present in response to Israeli directives. "One side determines how to proceed by turning Gaza into a pressure-cooker," she pointed out.

"The Oslo accords," she explained, "could lead to (Palestinian) statehood or could lead to disaster." But in the follow-up Cairo agreement "we have adopted the Israeli interpretations, particularly io the case of their definition of security" vis-avis the Jewish settlements. The Cairo agreement imposed "restrictions and handicaps" on the Palestinian Authority, she said, rendering its implement "next to im-

Dr. Ashrawi, who is in the United States to oversee the publication of her hook, This Side of Peace", due out next May, expressed the belief that some elements of the Oslo agreements need to be

re-oegotiated. She cited as one example the future of Jewish settlements io the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which, she said, could 'derail the peace process" if unresolved. She said she saw no reason why Jewish settlemeots should remain in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

On the other hand, she said it would be dangerous to rush to "final status" issues as recently advocated by some Israeli leaders including Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, she implied that she was oot confident that the present Palestiniao leadership was up to the task, considering the problems with the present interim

She remioded her audience that the Palestinians have oot signed a peace treaty with Israel and the Oslo accords are merely ao interim arrangement.

She attributed the current problems to overemphasis by the Israelis oo the security/ military dimension io the application of the accords. She pointed to what she saw an 'escalatioo of the rhetoric' after every clash or incident perpetrated by Palestinian fuodameotalists. Coosequeotly, she added, the authority has to continuously demonstrate its ability "to deliver on its obligations" a process that is "undermining its legitimacy and credibility... in Palestinian eyes."

She added: "We always saw ourselves as one people regardless of our political differences. We have managed to carry out an ongoing political, pluralistic debate and discourse regardless of our political beliefs. We never thought at one point the Israeli authorities would impose certain approaches and methods that

would be implemented by a

Palestinian Authority against

other Palestinians. She said she was not accusing the Palestinian Authority of causing the recent bloody clash in Gaza in which 13 persons were killed. She emphasised that the fundamentalists were themselves escalating their opposition but ar every point the Israelis would in turn insist that the Palestinian Authority demonstrate its commitment to the accords by reioing in these elements.

Dr. Ashrawi took issue with the common wisdom that lack of funds from the donor nations is solely contributing to the deteriorating situation in the self-rule

"People want to live within the rule of law and under a democratic, not a patronage, system," she stressed time and again to her packed audi-ened. She pressed for elec-tions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as one "corrective" measure that could belo in rectifying the situation.

"Palestinians have to speak ont," she continued, for genuine, free, democratic elections. We have to have a legislative body and institu-

She acknowledged that elections would not necessarily change the political atmosphere in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip hut they would certainly contribute toa healthy democratic discourse, she stressed the need a free press, pointing out that one Jerusalem paper refuses to carry any news item about her activities.

She expressed the belief that Israel was hesitating about elections because the preseot government is unwilling to redeploy its army outside the Palestinian urban centres. as called for in the Oslo accords. Moreover, the Israelis are against an election of a Palestinian legislative body because this would imply Palestinian sovereignty, she said. Similarly, they do not want Arabs in East Jerusalem to vote or run forelection lest this ondermine Israel's position that the Holy City remain the country's unified capital. Under the accords, Arabs in East Jerusalem were granted voting rights but the future of the city was left for negotiations at the end of the current interim period.

......... Beirui (ME) . Doha, Muscat (GF)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

... Cairo (MS) isterdam (KL)

Egypt weighs traffic jams against preserving pyramids the motorway

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is tryiog to strike a halance between the desire to preserve the pyramids, the last of the seven wonders of the world, and the need to build more roads to ease the traffic

clogging the capital.
"Preserving the antiquities is of prime importance, but so is developing the roads," said Ali Hassan, from the Egyptian Department of

Antiquities, on Saturday. "All necessary precautions should be taken to preserve our archaeological treasures hut our economic interests and development programmes should not be ignored." he told AFP, summing up the dilemma plaguiog Egyptian

authorities. In 1982 the government decided to build a 91kilometre ring road to divert traffic off Cairo's streets which are given a daily pounding by 700,000 private cars and 50,000 buses or lor-

Work started in 1984, and two-thirds of the motorway is now complete.

But the realisation that the road was planned to pass only 2.5 kilometres from the Great Pyramid at Giza prompted international out-

The road was condemned hy the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and one expert, Said Zulfikar. thretened the pyramids could become an "endangered site"

aonic tomh dug in the rock, only a few metres away from

and struck off the list of the "world's heritage."
President Hosni Mubarak was driven to order work to stop, although \$30 million had already been spent on the southern section, according to Reconstruction Minis-

ter Mohammad Ihrahim Soli-Soon after Egyptian archaeologists uncovered seven sarcophagi in a Phar-

The discovery led the reconstructioo mioistry on Thursday to announce that

the new route will "run two to four kilometres south of the road which has already been huilt, so that it crosses an area free of archaeological But the head of the Giza antiquities regioo Zahi Hawass said the planned di-

versioo was still too close to the ancieot site. The motorway must be sited 25 kilometres from the pyramids for the area between the pyramids and Dahshur is considered as an area of antiquities," he explained.

But an official from the French company which did the initial studies said such a large deviation would ruin the motorway's purpose. "It would then have to go

through the palm plantations of Saggara, he told AFP, asking not to be named.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel: 773111-19 623541. PROGRAMME TWO Pollauards ... Un Pour Tous Montagne 771331. 775261. McHales Navy 652526. The Album Show Feature film: "Foreign Affairs" 23:59 The Upper Hand

Turkish Cypriots march for independence

NICOSIA (R) - About 1,000 Turkish Cypriots demons-

trated in downtown Nicosia Saturday in favour of the

hreakaway's state independence. The independence of the

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, declared in 1983, is

only recognised by Turkey. Negotiations between Turkish

and Greek Cypriots over the status of the divided island -

patrolled by United Nations forces - have repeatedly

stalled. Dervish Eroglu, leader of the opposition National

Unity Party, told demonstrators that a federated solution

with Greek Cypriots would lead to war similar to that

which has engulfed much of former Yugoslavia.

PRAYER TIMES Fajr (Sunrise) Duha Dhuhr

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh. Tcl. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annuration 632785.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. St. Ephraim Church Tcl. 771751. an International Church Tel. Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Amanan Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. There will be a chance of seattered showers with skies partly cloudy and winds westerly moder-ate to active. In Agaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers, winds southerly moderate and scas choppy.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Hisham Kan'an Dr. Walid Al Masri Dr. Jamal Jharah . Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad Fires pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy . . 778336 Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy Yacoub pharmacy 636730 . 644945 . 637660 ujh pharmacy .. Dr. Ali Shoqairi

Alguds pharmacy (---)

Dr. Rajch Sager 901290 Khalileh pharmacy 985417

..... 246140

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Riood Bank 775121 Highway Police Traffic Police ... 896390 Public Security Department Hotel Complaints Price Complaints 605800 Water and Sewerage Complaint Complaints Amman Municipality 787111 121 (directory assistance) . 010230 Central Amman Telephon . 623101 Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs Jordan Television . 773111

Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power

8t5615

HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 213813/32 Khalidi Maternity. J. Amn

644281/6 Akileh Maternity. J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 845845 666127/37 Amai Hospital . ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (109)990990 Princess Basma Hospital ... Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital _____ (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL - AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-fied. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Larnaca (RJ)
Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) New York. Amsterdam ... Brussels, Paris (RJ London (RJ 17:28 Madrid, Geneva (RJ) Paris, Geneva Vienna (RI)
Frankfurt (RI)

------ Agaba (RJ) ----- Cairo (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

20:05

22:55

..... Moscow (SU)

... Cairo (MS)
. Beirul (ME)
Istanbul (TK)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) **Flights** (Terminal 1) Beirut (RJ) Frankfurt (RJ) 69:15

...... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 11:30 Rome (RJ) Athens (R) 20:15 Jeddah (RJ) New Delhi (RJ) Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 21:25 22:00 22:30 Bangkok (RJ) Sanaa (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Dep. Assumes ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Danascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Danascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday **MARKET PRICES** Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Banana (Mukammar) 620 170 / 100 Cabbage 280/170 350/ 300 320/ 200 Cucumbers (large)
Cucumbers (small) 650 / 50n 240 / 140 260 / 180 280/ 180

مهلذا صند المصل

the Queen here are Princess Majda (right

day opened the annual

bazaar held by Al Hussein Society for the Education and

Rehabilitation of the Physi-

cally Handicapped, in which products from 36 countries

were displayed by the partici-

pating embassies and national organisations as well as the

bandicrafts and garments

made by members of Al Hus-

sein Society, according to a'

During a tonr of the hazaar, Queen Noor accom-panied hy Princess Majda

Ra'd, president of Al Hus-

sein Society, spoke with the

in the Wadi Araba area where the Queen

WADI ARABA (Petra) —

Her Royal Highness Princess

Basma Saturday visited Ranineh and Al Risbeb vil-

lages in the Wadi Araba area,

north of Aqaba, where she was familiarised with projects

various women's committees.

Royal Court statement.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her participants and met some of the members of the society.

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opened the Princess Basma Centre for Social Services, the first such centre in Wadi Araba, and was acquainted with the services and programmes offered by the centre two separate meetings with

especially women and chil-

Princess Basma visits Wadi Araba area

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Alia Fund for Social Development has

Saturday chats with children and women 'several ongoing projects (Petra photo)

Hèr Majesty Queen Noor Saturday tours background) and Mrs. Cristina Afridi

the international booths of Al Hussein (right foreground), wife of the Pakistani

The proceeds of the annual

bazaar will support the prog-

rammes of Al Hussein Socie-

ty, which provides physically

handicapped students with

education and training, and

rebabilitates them to assume

productive roles in the com-

Founded in 1972, the socie-

Queen Noor, accompanied

ty also provides medical care

for the physically handicap-

by Her Royal Highness Ghi-

da Talal, was received by the

ped throughout Jordan.

Society's annual bazaar. Accompanying Ambassador to Jordan (Petra photo)

Queen opens Al Hussein Society bazaar

the statement said.

Then the Princess toured the village's kindergarten and was familiarised with illiteracy eradication and vocational training programmes for women in the Badia regions.

carried out by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) as well as She also inspected the rural market which displays agricultural produce and bandicrafts produced by women At Al Risheh, the Princess participants in training courses at the Princess Basma centres in Agaba, Risheh. Quweireh and Diseh.

Also Princess Basma bad

citizens in Al Risheh and Al Rahmeb villages as well as the neighbouring areas.

board memhers of the society

and ambassadors and repre-

sentatives of the participating countries, the statement said.

Also, on Saturday evening,

Queen Noor attended a per-

formance titled, "A Night of

Viennese Waltzes," by the orchestra of the National

Music Conservatory of Noor

Al Hussein Foundation,

according to a Royal Court

spokesperson. The perform-

ance was organised in coop-

eration with Friends of the

Liver Patients Society and

was under the baton of maes-

tro Mobammad Otbman

She announced at the meetings that she was making a personal donation of JD 7,000 to establish a kindergarten class and another for illiteracy eradication at the social development centre in Rahmeh village.

Director of Wadi Araba sub-district Mahmoud Al Dahayat delivered an address in which he welcomed the Princess and lauded ber continuous efforts to help

Petra to broadcast via satellite

AMMAN (Petra) - Starting the new year, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, will hegin broadcasting news bulletins and other news items via satellite in implementation of an agreement reached last week by the Federation of Arab News Agencies, according to Petra Director General Abdullah Etoum.

Speaking upon returning to Animan Saturday from the federation's 22nd general assembly meeting in Beirut,

Mr. Etoum said the federation decided to link the Arab news agencies via satellites but left the option open for each news agency to broadeast its news materials through the system it finds most suitable to its engineer-

ing capabilities. Mr. Etoum said that such linking of news agencies will follow formal agreement to be signed later under the federation's umbrella.

Furthermore, the federa-

tion is expected to organise a roundtable meeting for the Arab and European news agencies to study the prospect of cooperation between the two sides.

According to Petra direc-tor, the federation also decided to organise a scientific seminar for Arab news agencies to chart programmes for their operations in the 21st century and to meet the challenges expected beyond the

Solutions to poverty-related diseases are 'in our hands' — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crnwn Prince Hassan Saturday said that the solutions to environ-mental problems and with that the prevention and possihle elimination of many diseases, particularly those linked to poverty, are "in our

In an address delivered on his behalf by Senator Ghaith Shabeilat to the World Health Organisation meeting of its task force on bealth in development, Prince Hassan defined health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease infirmity.

Following is the text of Prince Hassan's address: "Health for All" is one of

the cornerstones of WHO's global strategy. It can be fulfilled only through an international collaboration, with developing countries and donors on one level, and the different health institutions on another, working together to address the health aspects of development. The economic and social development of many countries of the developing world is threatened by old diseases like tubereulosis, and zoonoses, and new ones like

We have also witnessed an increased awareness of environmental hazards and the need for development to be sustainable as well as rapid. Among the factors that pose a global challenge are the changes in the Earth's atmosphere and in the range and nature of chemical substances, including ozonedepleting chemicals, climate change and the Greenhouse Effect, and the emergence of new microbes which are either man-made or the result of changed social and economic factors. The solutions are in our

bands. We trust that the work of the numerous scientists from different countries represented here will help to persuade legislators to enact the required laws, and create, the necessary public awareness, to tackle these and other environmental problems. This will greatly help the process of controlling, preventing and possibly eliminating many diseases. especially those linked with poverty. I would like here to reaffirm that bealth is defined as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." The health sectors thereevery stage in planning de-

Jordan is relatively small.

in Jordan as reported by UN-ICEF, have improved greatly. Infant mortality has declined from 102 per thousand in 1960 to 25 per thousand in 1994. The total mortality rate for all ages dropped from 51 per thousand in 1960 to 35 per thousand in 1994. Average fertility levels bave declined from 7.3 in 1984 to 5.7 in 1993. Life expectancy at birth is now 68 years, up four years from 64 in 1986. This compares with a life expectancy of 76 years in a developed country like the USA, and 45 years in de-veloping countries such as Yemen and Zambia.

The nutritional status of the people of Jordan has improved, and the ratio of population with access to both adequate sanitation and safe water reached 95% in 1993, while the rate of fully immunised children reached 95% this year. Other basic indicators for the health status of our people show equal-

However, in spite of this." bright picture of the health situation, Jordan has encountered problems of primary health care, in areas such as family planning, the prevention and control of endemiand infectious diseases, and a high rate of physical and mental retardation.

affected by the Gulf crisis. It faced several massive waves of immigration, followed by fore need to be involved at rapid demographic growth and migration into cities and towns. All of this imposed

velopment in my country. with a young nation: Children constitute 51% of our population. Jordan has nevertheless achieved high rates of economic growth during the past decade, and has undergone major social changes, not least in the health sector.

Health conditions in Jordan are among the best in the Middle East. This is because of its stability, and range of effective development plans and projects. These have always included health as a major component. We are fully aware that while development can help to solve many health problems, it can create new difficulties. In many developing countries. the migration of people to new areas of development, whether industrial or agricultural, bas created housing. health and environmental problems, as well as poverty around urban centres.

During the last two de-ades, hasie health indicators In spite of these difficul-

ly great progress....

Jordan was very adversely



Senator Ghaith Shubeilat Saturday presides over the opening session of the World Highner Health Organisation (WHO) Task Force photo) on Health Development Policies where he

delivered a speech on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra

great and growing burdens on Jordanian society and national resources, with a negative impact on the socio-economic situation and health development of the country. United Nations sanctions imposed after the Gulf War bave compounded the problems, impacting particularly on Jordan's economy and bealth

ties, Jordan continues to strive to provide all of its people with acceptable standards of bying, For example, GNP (Gross National Product) per capita bas risen from \$1,050 in 1990 to \$1,200 in 1994. It is our hope that peace in the region will pay dividends in terms of hroadbased cooperation, human resource development and progress in all fields of life. We trust that the international community will invest in a stable future for all in the Middle East. For peace must produce a tangible improve-ment in living standards if it is to be real to those on the

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude by suggesting a few themes and night profitably address.

First, bealth is a human right, and every individual should have access to a modern health care delivery sys-

Second, priority must be given to primary health care, and to the remote and less privileged areas.

Third, the health insurance system must be extended to cover the majority of people. and the quality of medical care as a whole must be updated.

Fourth, the private sector's capacity and capability must be better utilised.

Fifth, more concern and resources should be focused on planning and cooperation among different health institutions.

Sixth, the triangle of poverty, illiteracy and bealth requires a bolistic approach. The Task Force can recommend guidelines to the developing countries for planning, training and mobilising resources towards a sustainable approach.

I am sure that sectorial planning strategies will foster coordination, and bring the different local and international institutions closer together. This will advance economic and social development, and will strengthen peaceful and friendly rela-tions among different comtries, thus facilitating the task of WHO in promoting the well-being of humankind.

Let us hope that health, security and accountability evolve as a possible bridge to peace among nations. Developing countries and donors should work together to realise the shared objective of universal access to basic social services. Only if we work together will we be able to reduce poverty. achieve a better halance between population growth and available resources, and improve global human security. development and peace for the coming generations. Only if we work together can we attain a truly shared and sustainable future.

We ask God Almighty to steer us to His path. Peace be with you and God's mercy and blessings. Thank you.

Later at the meeting WHO Regional Director Hussein Jizaeri addressed the Task Force participants saying, "As you all know, health is the heart and whole of development. The noble objective of any development effort is a better quality of lifeand, health is most important and sensitive indicator of quality of life. Or, else who would like to bave all what is good in the world and have poor bealth?

"No person, community or a nation can be rich and prosperous with poor health indicators — yet it does not need richness to be healthy.

"No development can be sustained, and no future can be hoped for, if the health of the people who build development and future is роог."

ticipants to use health as a spearhead for development... and, as a tool for develop-

ment as well as a guarantee for continued prosperity. The three-day meeting is to

discuss the effects of health on economic development, health insurance, poverty and unemployment.

PSD chief says crime rate on decrease

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the eve of Arah Police Day, which is observed today, Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan announced that hy all standards the crime rate in Jordan remains within its usual limits and is considered low compared to neighbouring countries.

According to Lt. Gen. Udwan, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of crimes in the Kingdom compared to previous years. The PSD director, bowever, gave no figures for crimes committed in recent years. Lt. Gen. Udwan said the

2SD has acquired sufficient capabilities and skills to deal with all types of crime. Referring to drug traf-

ficking and substance abuse in the Kingdom, the PSD director said that this problem is cause for concern because although the rate of such crimes is "relatively modest," it is increasing, especially as Jordan lies between drug-producing and

drug-consuming countries. Brigadier Hisham Ensour, bead of the Anti-Narcotics Burean, last June estimated drug addicts in Jordan number 950. He had warned that the number was on the rise and said that the rate of addiction was estimated at three persons ont of every 10,000 citizens. In a statement Saturday,

Brig. Ensour said that drug addiction was having devastating consequences on societies and was very noticeably on the increase in the last few years. But he added that Jordan was one of the most active countries in the region in combatting drug trafficking. Brig. Ensour said his de-

partment was working in close cooperation with the security forces of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt to

stem drug trafficking and other forms of smnggling. He said the PSD had

apprehended several youth reported to be substance abusers, adding that the concerned authorities were taking the appropriate measures to deal with these individuals. Turning to the issue of road safety, Traffic Affairs

Department Director Mnayyad Mnbaslat said that his department bad recently enlisted the assistance of Swedish experts to belp make Jordan's roads safer for motorists. The PSD recently sub-

mitted a draft traffic law to the Cabinet. Officials say the draft legislation is far more advanced than the existing law. One aspect of the new

law, be said, would allow fines to be paid at post offices, another would better organise the process of renewing driving or vehicle

lat said that a total of 24,799 road accidents occurred in Jordan during 1993 causing the death of 440 persons and injury to another 11,754. He said a total of 38,652 vebicles were involved in these acci-

Also speaking on the eve of Arab Police Day was the head of the Policewomen's Department, Captain Kafa Halasa, who said that the number of women in the Kingdom's police force bas grown to 520. When the Policewomen's

Department was first establisbed in 1972, only six women joined the force, she said. Captain Halasa said that

policewomen are employed at police stations, airports and sea ports, and border posts and also provide protection to important personalities. Meanwhile, sources at

the Customs Department

Last month, Mr. Mubassaid the department bas aborted three attempts to smuggle large quantities of cigarettes into the country.

The sources said that in one of the operations late Friday evening in the eastern desert, the department's teams apprehended smugglers and confiscated weapons and a vehicle, in addition to 1,856 cartons of cigarettes.

In another operation, said the sources, the Customs Department cbased another group of suspected smugglers in the northern desert and apprehended

The department confiscated 3,126 cartons of cigarettes as well as the suspects' vehicle and

weapons. The sources added that

department personnel also stopped another attempt to smuggle 1,072 cigarette cartons through the border. No further details were

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FRANCO-ARAB CINEMA **FESTIVAL**

Film entitled "Mercedes" (Egypt/ France 1993) at Cinema Concorde at 8:30 p.m.

FILM

☆ Film entitled "The Jungle Book" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

A Choir by the Baptist community at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00

EXHIBITIONS

☆ Plastic art exhibition by Laila Kawash at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings on leather by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabduh at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

- ☆ Painting and water colours exhibition by Suhail Ma'tong at Baladna Art
- * Art exhibition by Ammar Khammash and Fuad Mimi at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- * Exhibition of works by Mahmud Obaidi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.
- * Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre. ★ Exhibition by Akram Naji Shaker at

Ab'aad Art Gallery.

- * Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 669348).
- * Exhibition by artists Lattif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.

BANI HAMIDA CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Here comes the red season! It's Christmas and our rugs are celebrating in a pageant of lively and warm red colours.

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U.S., N. Korea in touch over downed American helicopter

SEOUL (AFP) — The U.S. army said here it was in contact with North Korea over the fate of two American crewmen of a helicopter which Pyongyang said it shot down Saturday after it strayed across the DMZ from the South.

'We are in touch with North Korea through a variety of channels," an Eighth Army spokesman told AFP, as unconfirmed reports indicated the two American pilots of the OH-58 spotter nelicopter were alive.

North Korea claimed through its official news agency that ann-aircraft gunners of the Korean People's Army had hrought the "enemy" helicopter down with "one sbot... as a self-defence measure."

"A helicopter of the enemy illegally flew deep into the air above the Ipho-Ri area. Knmgang County, Kangwon Province, at around 10 hours and 45 minutes (0145 GMT) today," the North's Korean Central News Agency

(KCNA) said. The U.S. Eighth Army and the Pentagon in separate announcements bere and in Washington confirmed the belicopter bad made "an emergency landing" inside North Korea, but not that it bad been shot down.

An American OH-58 observation helicopter, piloted by two Americans, on a routine training" mission crossed the DMZ, and according to Department of

Defence (DOD) reports, it made an emergency land-ing," the Eighth Army spokesman told AFP in

Radar contact was lost with the crew at around 11:30 a.m. (0230 GMT), he said, without commenting on a Southern radio report that it had gone down at 10:40 a.m. some five kilometres inside North Korean territory.

It was the first known instance in at least 10 years of an American military helicopter straying over the tense and beavily fortified Demilitarized Zone that bas divided the two Koreas since the end of the 1950-53 war.

The South's Yonhap News Agency quoted Combined Forces Command (CFC) sources as saying the pilots had become disoriented by heavy snowfall in the area and had mistakenly landed on the Northern instead of Southern side.

The two had tried to take off again when they realised their mistake, but bad been prevented," the sources told Yonhap, adding that the two were uninjured.

In Tokyo, North Korean monitors said KCNA connnued to repeat its brief three-paragraph announcement, which ended by saying that "the competent organ is investigating the illegal intrusion of the enemy's helicop-

Radio Pyongyang moni-tored in Seoul at 1200 GMT made no mention of the fate of the pilots in its news of the belicopter's downing, with a protest against combined U.S.-South Korean exercises in the DMZ area.

Yonhap in Scoul said CFC Commander General Gary Luck and his South Korean counterpart General Chang Sung were meeting on how to handle the incident, which came amid an unprecedented warming of ties between the U.S. and North Korea.

The agency also said the United Nations Command (UNC) at the border truce village of Panmunjom bad already contacted North Korea through its emergency channels to ask for the safe return of the crew and the

CFC vigilance in the area had been stepped up, it added. The official CFC spokes-

man told AFP be was not in a

position to confirm the Yonhap reports. In Washington a Pentagon spokesman confirmed that the OH-58, belonging to the Eighth Army's 17th Aviation Brigade, bad made an emergency landing in North Korean territory.

Korean territory. "We lost contact with the helicopter at 21:15 EST (0215 GMT)... we are listing it as an emergency landing," said Pentagon spokesman Ken-

neth Bacon. Mr. Bacon too declined comment on the North's report of it being shot down, saying information was "preliminary and partial."

The last major incident of American servicemen falling into North Korean hands was in 1968 when the North cap-

tured the spyship Pueblo.

The 83 Pueblo crewmen
were held for 11 months before being released. In 1976 two U.S. military men on the DMZ were hacked to death by North Korean border guards when they tried to cut down some trees.

In the past two months there has been an unprecedented warming of rela-tions between Washington and Pyongyang, who despite being technically still at war with one another, are now discusaing setting np diplomatic ties.

The first talks on an ex-

change of liaison offices took place in New York this month, and last weekend two influential U.S. senators flew an American military plane into Pyongyang for the first time since the 1950-53 con-

Meanwhile, a U.S. member of the House of Representatives arrived in North Korea Saturday, the same day as the U.S. military belicopter went down in the Communist republic.

KCNA said Democrat Bill Richardson, a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and his party were greeted at the airport by officials from the Foreign Affairs Commission.

The report, monitored in London, gave no further de-tails about the purpose of his trip or whom he would meet.



Undated file photo of a U.S. OH-58 helicopter Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) Saturday (AFP similar to the one which was allegedly shot down by North Korea as it flew across the

Cambodia says it is reforming military

PHNOM PENH (R) - The Cambodian Defence Ministry, responding to accusanons from a leading civil rights campaigner that its army was corrupt and committed atrocities, said Saturday it was already reforming

the armed forces.
The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces is doing its best to suppress this problem and for that reason we are undertaking reforms in the whole armed forces," a statement from the Cambodian Ministry of National Defence

"(We are) for example cutting back the size of the armed forces, reducing the ranks of the generals and other afficers and undertaking training for all soldiers and officers," the statement

The outgoing executive director of the Khmer Institute of Democracy (KID). Julio Jeldres, earlier this week accused the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) of being corrupt and lacking discipline, "orten killing and committing atrocines against innocent people."

The Defence Ministry

statement criticised Mr. Jeldres, a Chile-born Australian national, for focusing on the

alleged misdeeds of the RCAF rather than those reportedly committed by the country's Maoist guerrillas.

It accused the Khmer Rouge of selling off parts of Cambodia and said that dozens of Thai trucks were moving in ann out of Khmer Rouge areas every day along the border, transporting logs, gems and other products.
"Why does Jeldres not-

point out that the money from logging in the Khmer Rouge areas is used by the Khmer Rouge to buy arms and ammunition to kill Cambodian people," said the statement.

3 Thai students die in Pakistan violence

KARACHI (R) — Three
Thai Muslim students waining
for a taxi were shot dead
identified gunmen on
motorcycles in Karachi's central district as they were wait-Friday in continuing violence in the Pakistani port city of Karachi, police said Satur-

The three men were among 10 people killed in different areas of the city Friday and early Saturday, raising to 119 the death toll from ethnic and sectarian violence in Karachi this month.

The Thais, students of Karachi religious school Jamia Bonnoria of the majority Sunni sect, were shot by uning for a taxi after lunch with their friends, the police said.

The dead were identified as Mobammad Younus, Noorudin and Abdul Majid. Two of their colleagues, Mohammad Shugri and Abdul Ghani, were wounded and admitted to hospital.

One person was shot dead Saturday morning in Shad-man town area. Shots were also reported from central

and east districts, police said.

Six other people, including two policemen, were killed Police officials' said direc-

tives bad been issued for the arrest of all leaders and activists of two rival sectarian Muslim organisations, the Sunni Sipah-E-Sahaba and the Shiite Tehrik Jafria.

"It is not just the militants of the rival factions of the Mohajir National Movement (MQM) involved in the violence, but also Muslim militants and other groups out to settle scores," a police offi-

S. Korea names new premier

SEOUL (Agencies) - South Korean President Kim Young-Sam named U.S.educated Lee Hong-Koo as his new prime minister Saturday, a presidential spokes-

Mr Lee, who is deputy prime minister and also the unification minister, replaces Lee Yang-Dug.

based on the president's belief that Lee would be best suited to lead the nation's efforts for globalisation, now a top priority of the government in anticipation of the impending birth of the world trade organisation," the spokesman said.

'Lee's wide administrative experience, as well as his moral integrity, was taken into consideration," he said. The National Assembly

approved Mr. Kim's choice

of prime minister. A parliamentary spokesman said Mr. Lee's appointment was passed with 177 votes in favour and 34

'against. The shuffle of jobs bad been expected, although not until sometime next week. South Korean analysts and the main opposition Democratic Party said Mr. Lee was named because Mr. Kim trusts his international savvy and expertise on unification

"Lee has been educated abroad, and be bas the inter-



congratulations by telephone at his office in Seoul after being named to the post Saturday (AFP photo)

national sense. That is what the new cabinet needs," said a professor at Seoul National

After learning of the announcement, Mr. Lee told reporters be had "never expected this".

"But since a government post is not one you choose, you've no choice but to do your best when you're given the chance to serve the public," Mr. Lee told reporters

after his appointment. Mr. Lee, 60, replaced Lee Yung-Duk, who had limited his role to that of a figurebead premier, carefully avoiding a repetition of his predecessor Lee Hai-Chang's error - not knowing it is the president who calls the shots

my shoulder," the premierdesignate told journalists after his appointment. "Globalisation is a world trend and

we must not be left behind." On future ties between North and South Korea, he said inter-Korean relations would largely depend on changes in North Korea, rather than South Korea's policy toward the North.

"Our policy of pushing for peaceful unification through dialogue will remain nnchanged," he said.

Besides the new prime minister, all eyes are now on the newly instituted financeeconomy ministerial post, a powerful donble job combining the functions of the finance and the economic planning portfolios.

"I feel heavy burdens on

rally against far-right Republicans

Germans

SINDELFINGEN, Germany
(R) --- About 2,000 people
(protested in the southwest German city of Sindelfingen
Satiritary against a congress
of the far-right Republicans
Party, one of the country's largest night-wing groups.

Ignatz Bubis, head of Germany's Central Cnuncil of Jews, told the protesters that allowed to gain popular sup-

"We must not give the spiritual arsonists the slightest chance," he said, echoing accusations that far-right groups like the Republicans encourage neo-Nazis through their rhetoric to firebomb refugee hostels.

More than 30 people. many of them foreigners but also including other targets of Nazi ideology like the handicapped and Jews, have been killed since racist violence flared after German unification in 1990.

Groups like the Republicans, who campaign for the deportation of foreigners frnm Germany, created scapegoats for violent neo-Nazi groups, Mr. Bubis said.

U.K. Conservatives fight back after poll

LONDON (R) - Britain's next general election, due by ernment on an EU finance embattled Conservative gov ernment, humiliated by the opposition Labour Party in its warst by-election defeat for 60 years, Saturday launched the long fight needed to woo back deeply disillu-

sioned voters. Cabinet troubleshooters David Hunt, reacting to the 29 per cent swing to Labour in the central England seat of Dudley West Thursday, said: We have got to unite behind the reforms of the last 15 years. We now have to begin

the fight back." But Prime Minister John Major has a mountain to climb — his popularity has plummeted in opinion polls and he is battling rebels who are tearing the party apart

over Europe. If the Dudley swing were repeated nationwide at the would be routed.

Former party Chairman Norman Fowler said the Conservatives had "a political death wish" by appearing bopelessly divided.

"If we go on like this, then we will make a gift-wrapped present of the next general election to the Labour Party." he warned after the Conservatives' 29th consecutive by-election defeat.

Bitter recriminations abounded with Conservative right-wingers calling for tax cuts, a referendum on the European Union and tougher law and order measures to attract back voters angered hy tax rises, party splits and sleaze allegations.

Rebels, who were expelled from the parliamentary party after voting against the govthe latest election fiasco.

Teresa Gorman said voters were 'fed up with handouts to Brussels. Our supporters stayed at home because they think the policies are not in their best interests.

The Conservatives are now

pinning their hopes on economic recovery as the key to success at the next general election. Mr. Major, putting a brave face on the Dudley disaster.

Friday urged Conservative rebels to step into line behind

Unity will be crucial if the Conservatives are, against all the pollsters' predictions, to pull off a fifth consecutive general election victory against a resurgent Labour Party under Tony Blair.

pleaded guilty, saying he needed money for his child and pregnant wife in China and to support a drug habit. The district court jailed him for three years.

China clamps

matrimonial

agency scams

BEIJING (AFP) — The

down on

Emptyhanded burgiar leaves note of protest

HONG KONG (AP) - Having broken into a garment factory and found nothing of

value, a disgruntled burglar

left a note warning the owner

to do better next time, or

else. "Put some money here

next time or I'll set fire to

your factory. ... You make

me do this for nothing. I can't

even find 10 cents," said the

note in Chinese. It was writ-

ten by Yu Kin-Fung. 33, who

was later arrested and admit-

ted to a string of burglaries.

At his trial Thursday, he

Chinese government is set to draft regulations aimed at preventing Chinese matrimonial agencies that promise foreign spouses from ripping off hopeful clients, the China Daily reported Saturday. However, a Ministry of Civil Affairs official quoted by the paper was quick to stress that the new rules should not be seen as an attempt to limit the ever-expanding number of marriages between Chinese and foreigners or overseas Chinese. A draft of the proposed regulation has been submitted to the State Council for approval, the official said. In the past five years, 120,000 such marriages have been recorded — 30,000 in 1993 alone — with the vast majority taking place between mainland women and overseas Chinese from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. The trend has been fuelled by The trend has been fuelled by a boom in matchmaking agencies, many of which operate without licences and cheat local customers of their money, the official said. In Guangzhou, the capital of thriving southern Guangdong province which borders Hong Kong, some 200 agencies have been closed down in the last few months for pocketing 400-yuan (\$50) registration fees but failing to introduce clients to a potential spouse. In addition, a lack of potential foreign partners has led many unscrupulous. agencies to look for local stand-ins who are directed to reject fee-paying clients. Although the woman are turned down. they still bave to pay the agencies a fee for the privilege. One genuine overseas Chinese from Hong Kong, who signed up with a Guangzhou agency, reported recently that after expressing interest in the third candidate he met, be was pressured by the owner to see and reject 10

UAE to launch school drive against mixed marriages

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The

United Arab Emirates

(UAE) will send social ex-

perts to schools to give lec-

tures and distribute booklets

in a campaign against mar-

riage to foreign women, officials said. The campaign is sponsored by the marriage fund, which was created by will be implemented from fund's director general. Jamthe marriage fund with a capital of 70 million dirhams

(\$19 million), which was

raised last year to 150 million

dirhams (\$40.8 million).

Rights groups condemn China dissident trial

rights groups moved swiftly Saturday to condemn the heavy sentences handed down to nine Chinese dissidents in the largest political trial here since 1989.

These people have been iailed solely for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental human rights and we are calling for their immediate and unconditional release,' Amnesty International said in a statement.

The Beijing Intermediate People's court announced Friday sentences ranging between three and 20 years for the nine dissidents, who had been held in police detention since being picked up in May and June 1992 in a sweep on underground pro-democracy and labour organisations.

The heaviest sentence was imposed on lecturer Hu Shigen, 38, who received a 20-year term for "counterrevolutionary" crimes. Among the other dissi-

dents, Doctor Kang Yuchun, 28, was sentenced to 17 years, worker Liu Jingsheng, 38, to 15 years and unemployed individual Wang guoqi, 31, to 11 years.

"This trial appears to have been grossly unfair." Amnesty said. "It was closed to family members, the public and

foreign observers, and we are

urging the authorities to re-

BEIJING (AFP) - Human trial procedures." A total of 15 dissidents were tried and six were released Friday, although Amnesty noted that the charges against them were not dropped and one had been put under supervision for two years.

All defendants were charged with forming or joining three underground dissident groups, writing and printing political leaflets and planning to distribute them before June 4, 1992 — the third anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre.

The New York-based group Human Rights in China, also protested the sentences which it said scuttled the theory that stronger trade ties with China would benefit human rights.

. "We strongly protest the sentencing of these dissidents and call on all international organisations to step up pressure on the Chinse government," the group said in a statement.

"In reality, the absence of international pressure has been the human rights situation in China worsen significantly," the statement said with specific reference to U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision in June to delink human rights and the renewal

of China's most-favourednation (MFN) trade status. The consequences of Mr.

highlighted by Robin Munro of the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch/Asia. Clinton's backdown on

MFN gave the green light to Beijing to mop up the dissi-dent community," said Mr. Munro. "Once he folded, what little pressure there was from others dwindled to nothing. Beijing has realised it has absolutely nothing to lose by dealing with the dissident ptoblem.

The trial of the 15 had been delayed at least twice, apparently for foreign policy considerations, including Beijing's unsuccessful bid to host the 2000 Olympics and its efforts to ensure MFN renewal in the first half of this

The heavy sentences handed down to the nine Chinese dissidents this week capped a dismal year for the country's pro-democracy movement. with most leading activists imprisoned or forced into ex-

Police sweeps in Beijing, Shanghai and elsewhere have all hut silenced China's dissident voices and a policy shift by most Western govern-ments keen to trade with China has left human rights groups as the only vocal champions of a neutered movement.

...This was the year of the coup-de-grace for the dissident movement in China,"

"There is now almost nobody left at liberty who feels capable of speaking out," Mr. Munro said, while voicing "deep concern" over the future fate of the most prominent exception, Wang Dan.

Mr. Wang, the 1989 stu-dent leader, is currently in hiding after escaping constant police surveillance outside his home and receiving alleged death threats.

Following a phoenix-like resurgence at the end of September.

I don't see the dissident movement recovering from all this for a very long time, said one Western diplomat. "Those activists that really

worry the government are in

police custody, jail or exile,

while the few who remain free are obviously too frightened to speak out," he added. The scramble in Canada. Europe, Japan and the United States to buy into the Chinese economic hoom has convinced the authorities in Beijing that they have no-

thing to lose by flaunting

their contempt for human

rights," said Human Rights

Watch/Asia's Executive Director Sidney Jones. "Countries engaging in 'commercial diplomacy' with China should express outrage over these sentences," Mr. Jones said after Friday's

court announcement.

the government three years ago to encourage UAE nationals to marry local women by offering them a grants of up to 70.000 dirhams (\$19,073). "The plan next month and will cover the country's university and all secondary schools," the al Al Bah, told Al Ittihad newspaper. "It involves seminars, lectures and distribution of booklets to students containing figures showing the negative effects of marrying foreigners." Mr. Bah cited differing traditions and cultures for the "negative effects" of mixed marriages, most of which involve woman from Egypt and India. UAE men have turned to such countries for wives because of soaring dowries for local brides. In some cases, dowries, the money paid by a bridegroom to his bride under Islamic Law, exceed \$100,000. Reacting to calls by President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan this year, hundreds of UAE tribes agreed to limit wedding costs hut they remained far higher than downies offered to foreign brides. Sheikh Zayed, 🏋 ordered the establishment of

COPENHAGEN (AFP) perishable ritual, celebrated from the factory to the royal Denmark woke with a maspalace, taking in government sive hangover Saturday, and and parliament, the armed probably in the wrong bed. after a traditional seasonal

carousal that for many will lead to the divorce count. For Friday was the time of the Julefrokost, the mid-December workplace binge that puts the office pany in other lands very much in the · 'shade and means good business for private detectives as

well as the catering trade. The tradition dates back some 60 years, when bosses began to lay on an annual dinner which they shared with their workers. Differentials were forgotten amid the sharing of a few home truths. "We were never afraid to

say what we thought to our superiors on that night. They .were as drunk as we were. : and accepted mockery and even insulis from us." said retired metalworker Niels. 66, who claimed never to have missed a Julefrokost.

"It's like an exorcism, a moment of liberation where you can shout out loud what you have been saying under vour breath all year." The readition energy until

forces and public services as well as private firms. The whole of Denmark

came to a halt Friday as in little groups or vast hordes the country gathered round red-clothed and candle-lit tables to eat vast quantities of food swilled down with copious draughts of beer and spirits. But as usual one thing

leads to another as the nation

lets down its collective hair,

and the end result is often

"The men are the worst." said psychologist Bent Peter-They are the ones who push their female colleagues. married or engaged, to commit acus under the influence of alcohol which they would

not probably otherwise have Niels, 27, admitted earlier this week that he was waiting impatiently for this year's Julefrokost. "I hope to score as well as I did in 1993." he said. "The women only need

a few drinks to let themselves

Danes rue morning after the night before year-old Inger there is the other side of the coin. "My husband will at his party and I'm afraid he will come home like last year, completely drunk and with lipstick on his collar." she wrote in the letters column of a major news-

> Should I take revenge and do the same with a male colleague, or should I break with him, because I can't forgive him any more," she wondered.

vate detectives beforehand to see if their spouses behave themselves, but for the rest, in Mr. Peterson's opinion, post-Julefrokost confessions and expressions of regret should never be made. "The result is more often

than not disputes, bitterness

and eventual separation," he

Suspicious wives, and some

husbands, will bave hired pri-

Inger floated the idea of husbands and wives going to the same party, but when she broached it to her husband's employers the suggestion was given a swift thumbs down. "It would be like taking communion." she was told. 'No charm, and no surChina clamps down on matrimonial agency scams

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UAE to launch school drive against mixed marriages

World News



of Chechen families have left this town in fear of Russian troops relatives as they leave the town of Pervomayskaaya. A number positioned just two kilometres away (AFP photo)

Chechen diaspora reflects struggle with neighbours

MOSCOW (R) - The bachev allowed glasnost fiercely-independent Chechens fighting Russian troops are an ancient Muslim people of 1.5 million whose diaspora across 50 countries reflects a history of lost battles against more powerful neighbours.

Chechens have lived in their tiny homeland in the mountains of the North Caucasus for a millennium, comiog into conflict with Persian, Ottoman, Russian and Soviet empires.

"The Chechens have occupied the territory for the past 1,000 years. They think it is their territory and they would like to be left alone," said Chechenya expert Martin McCauley, head of the Social Sciences Department at London University's School of Slavonic and East European

Chechen society is based on close-knit clans, whose sense of identity has been tempered by years of struggle, Mr. McCaulcy said.

The present conflict was Sovict leader Mikhail) Gor-

WASHINGTON (R)

White House Saturday and at

mansion, authorities said. No.

It marked the second ome

this fall that gunfire was

directed at the official pres-

U.S. Park Police and Sec-

ret Service spokesmen said

witnesses reported hearing

between four and six shots

fired at about 2:05 a.m. est

(0705 GMT) from near the

Ellipse across the street from

the rear of the White House.

"At least one (shot) landed on the grounds of the White

House in the area of the

south portico," a Secret Ser-

vice spokesman said.

idential residence.

least one struck near the

openness, it was inevitable they would try for greater autonomy or even independ-

Between the 17th and 19th centuries, Chechenya was in an area fought over by the Persian and Ottoman

In the 18th and especially in the 19th centuries, Russian imperial expansion southwards led to the 1817-64 Caucasus war as St Petersburg tried to conquer the moun-

Chechens made another bid for independence in 1943. With German forces at the gates of the Chechen capital, Grozny, they rose up against Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

But with the German advance halted, Stalin deported 350,000 Chechens and 80,000 people from neighbouring Ingushetia to Kazakhstan and central Asia. Thousands died on the way.

They are commemorated, in a cemetery in Grozny where a plaque bears an oath inevitable. When (former recited by Chechen soldiers: "We will not cry, we will not

He said there were no in-

President Bill Clintoo and

juries and police had no sus-

south side of the executive his family were asleep in the already analysing the one

dent and notified about it

later, a White House spokes-

this," a Park Police spokes-

man told local radio station

WTOP. "We don't know if

the White House was the

target or if they (gunmen)

were shooting at each other and the White House got in

the way. We don't know how

many, whether they were on

foot, whether they were in a

"We don't know who did

pects.

man said.

Shots fired at White House; no injuries reported

White House during the inci- spent bullet found on the

said.

lose heart and we will not

forgive." Yaragi Mamodayev, head of the Chechen government in exile in Moscow, said there are some 1.5 million Chechens in 50 countries, including about 800,000 in the Chechen Republic.

About 200,000 are in Russia, including 40,000 in Moscow, and some 100,000 are in Kazakhstan, descendents of the deportations.

Mr. Mamodayev said there were some 300,000 Chechens in Syria, Iraq and especially

One seat in Jordan's 80-

seat parliament is reserved for a Chechen and two for Circassians — another Caucasus tribe. Chechens and members of

several other Caucasus Mountain tribes fled the area after Russia tried to conquer the region, moving first to Turkey and then further to the Middle East.

The Chechens are mainly Muslims and their plight has triggered concern in the Islamic World and

tion (FBI) would search tihe

area to see if any other bullets hit the White House or its grounds. The FBI was

White House grounds, he

Authorities cordoned off

the streets immediately

around the White House and

were conducting a search of

Plainclothes and uni-

formed police officers were

standing in a light rain at

roadblocks. Streets were

marked off with rows of

flares, and officers with flash-

lights could be seen roving

outside the White House

The early morning incident

came less than two months

the Ellipse area.

perimetres.

protestarions in Moscow that Russia's military action is not directed at Islam.

Moscow has tried to justify its military action by portraying Chechenya as a centre of organised crime, with Chechen-based mafia groups spreading across Russia.

President Boris Yeltsin's press service said in a statement Friday there were 600 premeditated murders in Chechenya every year and that Chechen groups virtually monopolised the drug trade in several regions of Russia.

'Chechenya is today a powerful zone of crime, from where criminal elements operate throughout the country," it said.

Mr. McCauley said a key reason for Russia's campaign to bring Chechenya, which produced 2.6 million tonnes of crude oil last year out of Russian output of 354 million tonnes, was economic.

'Chechenya, would be of no importance if not oil. If it was a barren billside, I don't think Russia would be

after a man opened fire from

outside the north side of the

White House, spraying the

building with semi-automatic

That man, Francisco

was arreste

charged on 11 counts, includ-

ing attempong to assassinate

Mr. Duran has pleaded not

guilty in the Oct. 29 mid-

afternoon incident, in which

he allegedly fired 29 shots

through the fence on the

north side of the White

On Sept. 12, an unemployed truck driver was killed

when he crashed a small air-

plane onto the White House

South lawn. Mr. Clinton and

his family were not at the

White House at the time of

the president.

House.

that incident.

U.N. flight reopens Sarajevo Airport State Department official day morning, the official

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs allowed Sarajevo Airport to reopen Saturday when a U.N. military flight landed, U.N. peacekeepers

The airport had been closed since Nov. 21 by Serb threats and the U.N. regarded the flight as a test of Serb promises to halt their harassment of peacekeeping and aid operacions.

The second of two sche-duled U.N. flights was due to arrive later in the day but the first relief plane was oot expected before next week. -The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) had earlier frustrated the U.N. by refusing clear-ance for Saturday's flights.

Radovan Karadzic, presi-dent of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic promised the airport would be allowed to reopen as part of a package of measures to spur peace talks.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will set off for Bosnía Saturday evening in a bid to persuade Bosnian Serbs to resume peace talks with their Muslim rivals, a

said.
The official, who asked not to be ideonified, said a formal announcement of Mr. Carter's mission, was expected later Saturday from the Car-ter Centre in Atlanta, Geor-

In sketching Mr. Carter's expected innerary, he said the former president would take a commercial flight Saturday evening to Frankfurt where he would be briefed by U.S. ambassador to Germany Charles Red-man, formerly America's special envoy to the ex-

From Frankfurt, the official said, a U.S. military aircraft would fly Mr. Carter to Zagreb, Croaoa, where he was expected to meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and, possibly, Bosnian Prime Minister Hariss Sila-An aircraft of the U.N.

Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia, UNPRO-FOR, would then fly him to Sarajevo where he would arrive Sunday evening or Mon-

The United Nations Protection Force saw resumed operations at the Sarajevo Airport — an aid lifeline for Sarajevo's 380,000 mainly-Muslim inhabitants — as a credibility test for the Serbs.

Its spokesmen did not hide their frustration when per-mission for the first test flights was withheld.

We hear a lot of promises from the Bosnian Serb side," Alexander Ivanko said. They've promised us millions and millions of things and the main proof of their intentions to normalise reladons with UNPROFOR is the opening of Sarajevo Aîr-

Serbs of failing to deliver on Mr. Karadzic's pledge to halt BSA harassment of UNPRO-FOR's military supply convoys and aid relief to civi-"I have to say that the

situation has been normalised to a very little extent," he

Informed sources in Pale, a village outside Sarajevo which the Bosnian Serbs use. as their capital, said an envoy from Mr. Carter arrived to

arrange his visit U.N. sources said Mr. Carter wanted to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic who supports the big power

contact group peace plan which the Bosnian Serbs are alone in rejecting. Mr. Karadzic's approach to Mr. Carter is seen by the big power mediators as an attempt to go over their heads and has also been dis-

Alija Izetbegovic. Mr. Izetbegovic told a session of the Bosnian parlia-Mr. lvanko accused the ment in Zenica Saturday that Muslims stood by the contact group plan which gives 51 per cent of Bosnia to a federation of Muslims and Croats and the rest to Serhs.

missed by Bosnian president

"By accepting the contact group plan, we have set the bottom line as far as we are concerned," he said.

the royalist RPP.

monarchy, was struck with

November's election was

the second after multi-party

democracy was introduced in

Nepal's ruling Communists lose key parliament vote

KATHMANDU (R) - Nep-al's one-month-old minority Communist government suffered its first defeat Saturday when it lost a vote for a key parliamentary post to the main opposition party, the centrist Nepali Congress.

The Congress's Ram Chandra Poudel was elected speaker after his party struck a last-minute deal with the right-wing Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) to beat the Communists in Nepal's first vote by the new parliament elected in November.

Mr. Poudel polled 107 against the 94 votes for Chandra Prakash Mainali of the ruling Communist Party of full cooperation from all Nepal-Unified Marxist members of parliament in my

Leninist (UML). UML's Prime Minister

Man Mohan Adhikary and his shaky government still face the prospect of trying to survive a vote of confidence that must be held before the end of the month. "We welcome the outcome

a speaker elected from the opposition. "It is a natural and positive

of the election," said Subash Nemwang, UML's law minis-

ter, playing down the possi-

bility of parliamentary ten-

sions that could be caused by

Mr. Poudel promised to be impartial. "I look forward to

full cooperation from all

creating a national consensus." he said. UML has 88 seats, the Nepali Congress 83 and the

efforts to maintain political

stability and run the house by

RPP 20 in the 205-member house, with smaller parties making up the rest. The Communists won support in the vote to elect the

Nepal Workers and Peasants Party (NWPP), which has four deputies, while congress was backed by the Nepal Sadbhavana (Goodwill) Party, which has three seats. But the clinching deal for

Congress, which fought for

The Nepali Congress, which ruled for three years after the first election, called for a mid-term election after it lost a critical parliamentary vote earlier this year. The speaker from the left-wing defeat was caused by bitter

infighting in the party.
Mr. Poudel, 50 was the minister in charge of local development in the government of the Nepali Congress, which follows a Swedishstyle, welfare-oriented Social democratic ideology. dccades to end absolute

No-confidence motions to seek Berlusconi downfall

ROME (AFP) - Italian deputies announced Saturday that they would file two separate no-confidence motions in parliament Monday in a bid to overthrow the rightist government of Prime-Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

One motion was being put up by the progressive group mainly comprising the excommunist Party of the Democratic Left, the group's leader Luigi Berlinguer said.

He added that the second motion would be put forward separately by the Northern League, a fractious coalition partner, the opposition Ita-lian Popular Party (PPI) made up of centrists from the disgraced Christian Democrats, "and other groups."

The aim of the motions was "to obtain the downfall of the Berlusconi government" and allow "verification of the government's lack of a majority in parliament,"

Mr. Berlinguer said. The initiative for the motions "does not only lie with the Progressives but, after very friendly discussions, it appears that a similar motion will be presented by the centre-democratic parliamentary groups, that is to

other groups," he said. Mr. Berlusconi is spending the weekend at his country retreat outside Milan to prepare for a speech Wednesday

say the PPI, the League and

to parliament after which he was to seek a vote of confidence.

Until now, the opposition had said that it would only present a censure motion if Mr. Berlusconi declined to ask for parliamentary back-

Italian opposition parties are spending the weekend io manoeuvres to overthrow the ж ғпте к ter Silvio Berluscom. The premier suffered a set-

back in his search for new coalition partners Saturday when a centrist group he was wooing said it would not join his government. With his nominal allies in the federalist Northern League on the point of defecting, Mr. Berusconi needs new members for his coalition.

The small Italian Popular Party (PPI), which has 33 deputies and senators, made it clear that it would not take part in any government of which the neo-fascist National Alliance (AN) was a mem-

The alliance is a key component of the present coalition and Mr. Berlusconi could not govern without it. ing the same proposal for

"Berlusconi bas been makmonths and for months we have been politely explaining to him the reasons why we cannot accept his kind offer,"

PPI leader Rocco Buttiglione

said in an interview with a Rome newspaper. On Friday he met North-

ern League leader Umberto Bossi and leaders of the centre-left Party of the Democrtic Left (PDS, excommunists). Both he and Mr. Bossi said they wanted "a oew year to bring a new government."

> Mr. Bossi seems to have decided to move into oppositioo, and bas launched with the PPI a liberal-democrat axis "to transform Italy into a

> liberal and federalist state." Mr. Berlusconi faces a double threat. He could call for a vote of confidence from the parliament and lose it: or an alliance of the PPI, the League and the PSD could force through a censure mo-

But several questions remain unanswered, including the cobesion of the League and the problems posed by an overthrow of Mr. Berlusconi.

The number two figure in the League, Interior Minister Roberto Maroni, has already said he does not know how he will vote and another 50 parliamentarians, known as the dissidents, oppose Mr. Bossi's strategy of allying the League with the opposition.

Matters have not been simplified by the creation Friday of a new-pro-Berlusconi group calling itself the Feder-

alist and Liberal Democratic Group which has 20 deputies, 12 of them former League

supporters. Gianfranco Fini, head of the National Alliance, which strongly supports Mr. Berluscont, said he was certain the government would survive next week's "moment of

"I am starting to think that many people there are no parachutes," he said in an allusion to the defections from the League.

But observers have noted that Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro has had a meeting with his predecessor Francesco Cossiga, named in the press as a possible prime minister in an interim govern-

As the plotting and manocuvring around a new government continue, Mr. Berlusconi has gone to earth in his country house near Milan to prepare his speech to the

"I do not take part in bizarre mixtures," he said Friday, whether of the "public safety" type embracing all political parties or "presiden-tial" model, supervised by Mr. Scalfaro, as envisaged by the opposition if he loses the vote Wednesday.

Should that happen, Mr. Berlusconi says, there has to be a general election.

New, left-leaning Chirac dives for Delors' spoils

LYON, France (R) - Conservacive presidential candidate Jacques Chirac, only days after Socialist Jacques Delors dropped out of the race, has dived for his spoils and tuned in to the concerns of France's moderate lefr. The refusal of the Euro-

pean Commission head to stand in the April/May poll has thrown the left into disarray and spurred the Gaullist leader to turn moderate on a campaigning tour of the Lyon area in central France Friday and Saturday. In a thinly-veiled attack on

leading but undeclared conservative rival, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Mr. Chirac stressed social issues at a rally of their Rally For the Republic (RPR) party late "I want to unite all those

who, with me, want to make France move, restore social cohesion and give our people pointers for a new civic republican morality." Mr. Chirac told his first rally since he announced his bid for the presidency on Nov. 4.

Calling himself the champion of workers and employees who fear unemployment, he urged rapid change "so that no one is left on the" wayside.'



Conservative presidential candidate Jacques Chirac makes a point during his first campaign rally in Lyon. The first round of presidential elections is scheduled for the end of April 1995 (AFP photo)

He called for urgent measures to improve the lot of depressed urban areas, including tax cuts for residents. Attacking Mr. Balladur without naming him, Mr. Chirac said he wanted to funite all those who reject over-cautious reformism, who refuse to stand still" - a criticism of Mr. Balladur which is made openly by Chirac supporters.

Mr. Balladur, closer to the centre than Mr. Chirac and the front-runner in opinion polls, has sought to place himself above the poliocal fray by repeatedly stressing that he is too busy governing to think about the election.

But Mr. Chirac, flanked by allies Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Nacional Assembly speaker Philippe Seguin, urged Mr. Balladur to de-

ences (between candidates)." Mr. Delors' withdrawal has encouraged conservatives. but some fear it could prompt too many right-wing hopefuls to step into the ring when Socialist President Francois Mitterrand steps down. Mr. Seguin followed Mr. Chirac's address with a warn-

clare his hand because "a

presidential campaign ... is

the time to highlight differ-

ing to Mr. Balladur.
"Mr. Balladur cannot tell us he is the best barrier to the left because the danger no longer exists. He cannot say Jacques Chirac does not have the necessary capacity be-cause all of us in the RPR have always said the oppo-

site," he said. Earlier, Mr. Chirac visited several depressed suburbs in the Lyon area which have recently been plagued by rioting. He talked to community associations and voluntéer doctors working with drug addicts.

Visiong a school in the Villeurbanne suburb of Lyon Saturday, Mr. Chirac sug-gested organisers of the 1998 world soccer finals which France will host should draft in 50,000 young people across the country to give them work experience.

Mandela: Mess of apartheid grips S. Africa

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (R) — President Nelson Mandela challenged his ruling African National Congress (ANC) Saturday to find a programme for equality for the masses to end the "mess of apartheid" inherited last

"South Africa has undergone its most fundamental political transformation in centuries," he said in a speech opening the first congress of the ANC since it won the historic all-race elections

in April. "But socio-economic problems arising from colonial domination remain as stark as they were under apartheid," he said.

"To refer to the five million unemployed, the seven million without real housing and the millions who are illiterate, is to state the obvious, yet daunting, challenges." he told about 3,000 delegates meeting in the Orange Free State provincial capital of Bloemfontein.

Delegates said fierce debate was expected over accusations that the party leadership bad moved too slowly in improving the quali-ty of life of blacks, partly to avoid alienaong whites. Diplomats at the congress

said the ANC leadership would have to address the perception. "Delivery is urgent for Mandela and his colleagues," one Western diplomat said. The president said his government's achievements included feeding schemes and

education for children, land

restitution programmes and

free medical care for pre-

gnant women.



South African President Nelson Mandela in the Orange Free State (OFS) region (AFP shakes hands with an elderly supporter before

"What is needed is a pracocal programme to bring about equity for the masses of the people, not just resolutions and representation in leadership structures, impor-

departing after his visit to Heidedal township.

tant as they may be... "In as much as we succeeded in mobilising the people for the victory we have scored, we have today the responsibility to mobilise them to become active participants in improving their quality of life," Mr. Mandela

He said his government had inherited corrupt administrators, crime, and rent and service boycotts by blacks aimed at bringing down white rule.

"This is the mess of apar-

theid we have inherited. Yet,

as we stated on countless occasions, to lament... does not help eradicate it. We must get down to work to build a bener bfe for all." he said.

The congress was held under tight security at Bloemfontein University. Delegates were expected to break into 11 commissions to discuss among other things. the future of education, land resotudon, the housing backlog and the economy.
The Johannesburg-based

Weekend Star said in an

editorial Saturday that de-bate over whether the gov-

ernment had concentrated on

sansfying whites at the ex-pense of delivering a bener

life for blacks "could see

South African politics headed

down a dangerously blind "What should be focused on is - has the organisation taken policy steps adequate to the task of reconstructing

The congress will elect offi-cials to six senior positions and will choose more than 50 members of the policymaking National Executive Committee.

and developing South Afri-

Mr. Mandela brightened up the life of a paralysed boy when he pushed his wheel-chair out of sight of the media and gave him 200 rand (\$56) for a new school uniform, South African news agency (SAPA) said Saturday.

Jordan Times

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Separation map on wall

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin seems to be coming up with a new formula for solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this time on the basis of separating the two peoples according to demography rather than geography. This scheme not only runs counter to the opposition parties' platform hut also injects a novel element in the vision and programme of Rabin's own Labour Party.

The Likud Party, which leads Israel's opposition, has always espoused a position that called for annexing all what they described as Eretz Israel. "Judea and Samaria" have always been referred to as part and parcel of Greater Israel and this has fuelled Arab suspicion that the occupied territories are being targetted for annexation. Now the prime minister seems to be giving currency to the proposition that Israel's long-term interests vis-a-vis the occupied territories and their people lie in separation of Jewish population centres from Palestinian ones and then drawing a new boundary line.

What Rabin is not spelling out in clear terms though is the implication of this formula on the Israeli Arabs who constitute no less than one fifth of Israel's population and settle in a geographic area that is sizeable and important. The Israeli Arabs have shown time and again that they feel first and foremost as Palestinians. Based on this, it makes sense to articulate a long-term solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that includes those Arabs as well.

Israel would continue to treat its Arab citizens as thorns in its side till a permanent solution is found for all Palestinians. But incorporation of the Israeli Arabs into any new grand scheme would face immense legal and political hurdles. Since the non-Jewish citizens of Israel enjoy legal protection, no solution that includes them could see the light of day without their consent.

Redrawing the map of Palestine along racial and ethnic bases would also entail some kind of ethnic cleansing even though it is being contemplated for implementation by non-military means. Should that be what Israel is considering as a permanent solution, then an Israeli-Palestinian conference needs to be convened for this purpose so that any redrawing of the map would have to be done through democratic means and agreement of all parties concerned.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday commented on the reported failure by a committee meeting in Tunis to discuss disarmament and regional security matters in the Middle East, blaming Israel for adamantly refusing to budge from its stand. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Israelis aim only at economic and political cooperation with the Arab states of the region and are not concerned about discussing ways to reduce its own arsenals of mass destruction weapons. If this trend continues, it will adversely affect the whole peace process in its bilateral and multilateral aspects and tender normalisation a futile attempt, said the writer. It is, he said, unimaginable to see Israel continuing to arm itself with all kinds of weapons and at the same time reaching peace with its neighbours. He said the whole world realises that the Israelis possess mass destruction weapons, including nuclear heads, which are a permanent threat to peace. While the Arabs are holding on to peace and coexistence, the Israelis continue to pursue a hostile attitude not only by massing weapons but also by pursuing their repressive policies, thus laying real obstacles in the path of peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily criticised the draft budget for 1995 for being void of any mention of pay increases to government employees who are considered as living on the poverty line. Taher Adwan said the rising cost of living in Jordan has prompted the Lower House of Parliament to assign a special session to discuss the situation and look into ways of helping the needy. The hasic commodities are out of reach of the limited-income groups whose income is being drained and eroded due to the lower value of the dinar, the soaring prices of all basic commodities, including food, and the growing requirements of the daily life in Jordan, said the writer. He said that the wages and salaries ought to be connected with the cost of living index which means the government ought to find a way to deal with the situation by giving cost of living allowances to the employees who, are in real need of help. The writer said that the government ought to give due attention to tourism and agriculture, as these two sectors can absorb huge numbers of unemployed people and so Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Preparing RJ for privatisation

The Royal Jordanian airline (RJ), was established in 1963 as a private sector shareholding company with a paid-up capital of JO 1 million. Four years later, the Jordanian government found itself, forced to nationalise the airling company and bring it to the public sector to protect the airline from bankruptcy. The occupation of Jerusalem in June 1967 was a devastating blow to the young company, and the loss of business to and from Jerusalem almost led the company to suspend operations altogether. The conversion of the RJ to a public sector enrity was not therefore a matter of choice. Now that the reasons for nationalisation are no more valid, it is only normal to denationalise the corporation and bring it back to where it belongs — the private sector.

The RJ was successful all along in functioning as a national air carrier, especially during difficult times in the early seventies or during the Gulf crisis. In both cases the airline kept Jordan in touch with the world when foreign airlines suspended their operations. However, it was never a financial success. Even when it was posting profits in its accounts, between 1973 and 1983, the airline was heavily dependent on direct or indirect subsidies and sweeping exemptions, the absence of which could have reversed this financial success.

Beside the style of management which was given no reason to give due priority to direct profitability, two other factors were responsible for the company's lack of financial success, namely the huge route network and the structure and turnover of the fleet.

The airline's network was at one time the lengthiest of all Arab airlines. The RJ was among the first Arab airlines to fly to the Far East and America. The long-haul routes to Houston, Chicago. Los Angeles, Miami, Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur were too expensive to operate, and the yield on those routes was extremely low due to fierce competition. The airline incurred huge losses to operate long-haul routes which were not particularly serving the best interests of the Jordanian economy or Jordanian travelling public. The airline could have made handsome profits had it concentrated its efforts on a

regional network covering the capitals of the Middle East and Europe.

The airline's fleet was composed of jumbo jets and other wide-body aircraft, which do not fit the thin traffic served by the airline to and from Amman. The airline could have done much better with smaller and less expensive aircraft, which can fly more frequently. It is Jordan's interest to connect Amman with other major capitals by daily flights rather than by two or three flights a week, even if the number of seats offered per week is the same. The airline also changed and modernised its fleet too rapidly, which is obviously very costly.

If invited to take part in the airline's capital, the private sector may decline as long as the airline's balance sheet carries a relatively large deficit due to accumulated losses incurred in previous years (losses that were fully accounted for in the balance sheet or not). The present, accumulated deficit is reportedly in the order of JD 150 million.

This deficit should not be an insurmountable obstacle in the face of privatisation. The solution I recommend is that the government recognise the losses as a public debt in compliance with the provisions of the law which stipulates that the government cover these losses in cash, year after year, immediately upon the issuance of the certified annual accounts. Admittedly, the treasury is not in a position to cover this huge amount. Therefore, it may be enough to make it an acceptable deht on the treasury and consequently a legitimate asset in the balance sheet of the airline. This deht is not to be paid in cash now or in the future. Instead it will be applied against future taxes, fees, rents, etc., which will become due on the privatised company. The amount may take several years to be cleared. This solution is not costiy to the government because the airline was fully exempt from these charges in the first place. The private sector may accept this situation because the privatised airline will not, of course, be exempted from taxes, fees and other charges such as landing, mooring and overflying, let alone sales tax and rents of offices and catering and maintenance facilities at the airport, all owned by the government and used by the corporation free of charge.



Clinton takes step back from political graveyard

By Steve Holland

WASHINGTON -- President Bill Clinton took a step

dent Bill Clinton took a step out of the political graveyard ou Thursday night hy trying to recast his presidency as champion of the middle class. Virtually written off as a

Virtually written off as a political force because of the Republican scizure of Congress, and getting little help from his own Democrats, Mr. Cliuton began his latest and most crucial comeback with a folksy-sounding Oval Office spaces.

He elbowed his way into the tax-cut debate engulfing Washington by proposing onse of his own, a middleclass "hill of rights" for millions who are "hurting, frustrated, disappointed, even angry." He would pay for the five-year, \$60 billion plan with deep cuts in the serpentine government bureaucra-

cy.
In so doing, Mr. Clinton continued an inexorable tilt to the right in response to the interpretation that the Republicans' romp in Nov. 8

elections was at least in part due to voters' impression that he had strayed too far liberal. Mr. Clinton boosters saw the speech as returning him to the middle-class roots he championed in his successful 1992 presidential campaign, a 10 minute speech "from the

heart" that showed vision and convictions, something his critics say he lacks.

Al From, president of the Democratic Leadership Council, a centrist organisation of which Mr. Clinton was a founder, has spent much of the past two years criticising Mr. Clinton for straying off

course.

Thursday night Mr. From was excited by what he

heard.

"I thought it was terrific," he said. "He began a conversation with middle-class voters... secondly, he talked of the values that really hold this conntry together, the values of citizenship and community. I think this speech gets him back to the roots of values and ideas that Bill Clinton ran for president

Republicans who have potent one," he said.

taken control of the debate over America's future sounded cocky after hearing the speech, convinced their victory had prodded Mr. Clin-

ton towards their side.
"I thought he was going to end the speech hy declaring he was going to switch parties and hecomme a Repnhlican," said William Kristol, a Republican idea-man who was Vice President Dan Quayle's chief of staff.

"Welcome aboard," said new Sen. Fred Thompson, Republican from Tennessee. But others saw Mr. Clinton laying out an agenda different than the Republicans. Centrist Democratic, strategist Will Marshall said Mr. Clinton laid hare a basic fault line "with the president and the Democrats stressing aid for the embattled middle class and Republicans stressing the theme of cutting govern-

"The president has an affirmative theme and Republicans have essentially a negative one — although a potent one " he said

There were no illusions at the White House about how far Mr. Clinton has to go to recapture the confidence of the American people.

His public approval rating, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll released this week, is at 38 per cent, lowest of any president since Ronald Reagan's 41 per cent approval in late 1982 in the midst of recession.

Mr. Reagan rebounded and won reelection in 1984. Mr. Clinton's free fall is deeply troubling to his hackers because it comes even as the economy is performing well.

With surging Republicans on one side and facing a possible Democratic challenge to his renomination in 1996 on the other, Mr. Clinton may have made a nod to his predicament when he remarked that his ultimate goal is not to move left or right but "to do what I think is right."

"My rule for the next two years will be: country first and politics as usual dead last."

Palestinian refugees — who's to blame?

By Pascal B. Karmy

IN HIS recently published book "The New Middle East", Shimon Peres alleges, among other matters, that some of the Arabs of Palestine left their homeland in 1948 because the Arah leaders of the neighbouring countries called up them to leave the war zones with the baseless hope that they will return after the Arah states win the war. Consequently, Mr. Peres argues the Arah leaders are responsible for creating the refugee prob-lem and for keeping it alive as the Arab states refused to absorb them like Israel absorbed the Jewish refugees who fled from the Arah countries.

Arah countries.

Mr. Peres further says that the Arabs who fied from Palestine counted about 600,000 and Israel absorbed the same number of Jewish refugees who were expelled from the Arab countries.

Arab countries.

It should be observed at the outset that Mr. Peres uses the word "fied" from Palestine when referring to the Palestine refugees while he uses the word "expelled" in referring to the Jewish refugees who fied the Arah countries in 1948 and thereafter.

Let us however examine Mr. Peres' allegations more deeply in order to record here the true historical facts which are corroborated by emineut authors, including Jewish authors.

On the allegations that

the Arah leaders called upon the Arabs of Palestine to leave the war zones in Palestine, I will quote at the outset author David Hirst in his book "The Gun and The Olive Branch" in which he says the follow-ing: "The Zionist version of the Palestinian exodus is a myth manufactured after the cataclysm took place. If the Zionists could show that the refugees had really fled without cause, at the express instructions of their own politicians, they would greatly erode the world's sympathy for their plight and, in consequence, the pressure on themselves to allow them to return. Thus in public speeches and such scholarly-looking pam-phlets they peddled this myth the world over. It was not until 1959 that the Palestinian scholar, Walid Khaldi, exposed it for what it is. His painstaking researches were independently corroborated by an Irish scholar, Erskine Childers, two years later. Together they demonstrated that the myth was not just a gross misrepre-sentation of accepted or even plausible facts; the "facts" themselves had been invented. Orders for the evaucation of the civilian population had not heen simply issued, the Zionists said, they had been broadcast over Arah radio stations. One had come from the mufti himself. Yet when these two scholars took the trouble to examine the record - to go through the specially opened archives of Arab governments, contemporary Arabie newspapers and the radio monitoring reports of both the BBC and the CIA — they found no such orders had been issued, let alone hroadcast, and that when challenged to produce chapter-andverse evidence, the date and origin of just one such order, the Ziouists with all the apparatus of the state of Israel now at their disposal, were quite unable to do so.'

With regard of the alleged call of the grand mufti of Palestine (the late Haj Amin Al Husseini), it is incontrovertible now that he was so alarmed at the exodus that he sent a cable to one of his staff as follows: "The emigration of children and others from Palestine to Syria is detrimental to our interest. Contact the proper authorities in Damaseus and Beirut to prevent it.

"All the above is sufficient to rehut the allegations of Shimon Peres. Let us however review cursorily the Zionist policy and the statements of some of the Zionist and Jewish leaders themselves on the question of the evacuation

of the Palestinian Arabs.

Some of the Jewish and Zionist leaders are honest and frank. They therefore explicitly admit that the Palestinians were expelled either by force or threat or

by causing panic among the Palestinian population so as to evacuate them from Palestine and replace them with Jews from all over the world. Herzl himself, the father of Zionism, was the first who proposed in his diaries that the problem of the Arabs in Palestine be solved by their physical removal from their homeland. This removal was implicit in the whole concept of a Jewish state in Palestine. Weizman, the first president of Israel, is known for his oft-quoted statement: "Palestine shall be as Jewish as England is English." Indeed how can Palestine be totally Jewish without expelling the Palestinians or, to quote a more diplomatic term used hy some Jewish leaders, by "transferring" them outside their country.
Joseph Weitz, who was

responsible for Jewish colonisation, wrote in his diary as early as 1940: "There is no other way than to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighbouring countries, to transfer all of them; not one village, not one tribe, should be left... only after this transfer will the country be able to absorb the millions of our own brethren. There is no other way out." His views were shared not merely by the fanatic revisionists headed by Jabotinsky, Begin's spiritual father, hut by the mainstream socialist leadership headed by Ben Gurion. The Jewish "Plan Dalet'', which was approved by the Zionist executive, was intended to control the areas given to the Jews by the United Nations partition plan in addition to areas occupied by the Jews which were outside these borders. The Dalet plan was also designed to cleanse such areas of their Arah inhahitants. especially the towns and villages ahutting on the roads essential for Jewish communications. The plan also entails the destruction fand the evacuation of some twenty villages, like that of Deir Yassin where the massacre of its civilians took place on April 9, 1948, to protect the peaceful Palestinian civilian population from further mas-sacres. Did not the Israeli army completely destroy the Imwas, Yalu and Beit Nuba villages and scattered its inhabitants to the four winds when it occupied the

1、 秦年二日主教教徒、 高州教教文艺、李明教教教教徒、

West Bank in 1967.

In describing how the Jewish Haganah and Palmach troops occupied Arah villages in 1948, the Jewish historian Arie Yitzhaki wrote the following: "... the method adopted being to raid an enemy village and hlow up as many houses as possible in it. In the course of these operations many old people, women and children, were killed wherever there was

Yitzhak Rabin, the present prime minister of Israel, has recorded in his Diary that at the instructions of Ben Gurion himself, the Israeli army physically expelled in 1948 all the inhabitants of Ramleh and Lydda from their homes. The sick, the old, gomen and children had to travel all the way to Ramallah, in the West Bank, and hundreds of them died on the way from exhaustion. hunger or thirst. This expulsion, among many others including massacres portray the black history of the creation of the state of

And now, without remorse or expression of human feeling towards the tragedy of the Palestinian refugees, Shimon Peres, who poses as the man of the peace and of selfrighteousness, alleges in his book that Israel did not expel the Palestinians from their ancestral bomeland and is not therefore responsible for the refugee proeblem But, documentary evidence and statements of knowledge-able leaders and politicians prove the contrary. Even Jewish and Israeli leaders admit their responsibility for the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem. It is thus appropriate to paraphrase Prophet Ezechiel's ery to the "honse of Israel" and address it to Shimon Peres and his compatriots as follows: "Every one of you shall be judged by the Lord according to his ways and

LETTERS

ment.

Misspent energies

To the Editor,

Your newspaper published a letter by Dr. Munther Siyam, (Thorny issue for the subcontinent, Dec. 6, 1994), which is written in the usual propagandistic style of Pakistan. This style is misrepresenting facts, using quotations in a selective fashion so as to create wrong impressions and hiding Pakistan's own involvement in creating trouble and disturbances in the sub-continent. I am saying this because Dr. Siyam is not the only person "who follows developments in the subcontinent"; there are others, like me, who follow developments not only in the Indian subcontinent, but in

I am making these remarks because I am aware of the fact that the Indian foreign secretary had invited Pakistan to discuss all issues and this, obviously, implies that India is more than willing to discuss the question of Kashmir also. (Even BBC broadcasts had confirmed this). After all, what is at stake is the future of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and this territory needs to be returned to India. As you might well know, Pakistan invaded the Indian states 1948 and has been in illegal occupation.

of its territory.

India has con-

India has consistently sought a dialogue with Pakistan. However, Pakistan has chosen to fight talks with India. As has been shown by the wise policies laid down by His Majesty King Hussein, it is better to discuss and negotiate to reach agreement and bring forth peace.

In my opinion, it is high time that all the countries in the subcontinent spent their energies fighting their real enemies which are poverty, illiteracy, disease, social back-

Yousuf Shahin, P.O. Box 31022,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Features

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a mystery 60 years on By David Ljunggren

ST. PETERSBURG - Sixty years after the momentous murder of Leningrad Com-munist Party boss Sergei Kirov, historians are still argaing over who was behind what one leading academi-cian calls the "crime of the

century."

Amidst the mist of claims, counter-claims and conspiracy theories which swirl around this turning point in history, just two facts are

At 4.37 p.m. on December 1, 1934, as Kirov was walking down a murky corridor towards his office in Leningrad's Smolony building, he was shot in the back of the head by 30-year-old Leonid Nikolavev.

That same night Soviet Dictator Josef Stalin issued a decree stepping up trials and executions of those considered hostile to the government. Countless millions of people were shot and impris-oned.

Some historians are convinced that the highly para-noid Stalin, alarmed by Kirov's growing popularity within the party, decided to have him killed before he could become a potential rival for power.

One such expert is Dr. Robert Conquest, a Stalino-logist who has taken a close interest in Kirov, who was 48 when he died.

'Nothing I've seen has changed my view that Stalin was directly responsible for Kirov's death," he said. He added that there is overwhelming circumstantial evidence Stalin was to blame.

On one level it was word of mouth only," said Dr. Conquest in a telephone interview from Stanford University in California.
"It's like Hitler and the

holocaust against the Jews some people say Hitler knew nothing about it because there are no documents signed by him. But a court of law is not the same as a court of history." us()

Stalin's smouldering suspicions of the charismatie Kirov seem to have been confirmed in early 1934 during the 17th Communist Party congress, when elections to the policy-

showed Kirov's star shone

'Crime of the century' still

late that of the 1,966 dele-gates, only a handful voted against Kirov, compared to almost 300 against Stalin. Worse for Stalin, there were tentative suggestions he should be replaced by Kirov. Of the delegates present,

1,108 were shot over the next five years before the 18th party congress in 1939. Many of those executed have been posthnmously par-

doned and the State Commission for the Rehabilitation of the Repressed is ploughing through the countless documents on the Kirov case. "There are no new conclusions to be drawn. Unfortu-

nately nothing has come up. I think Stalin was too cunning to leave any direct traces," said commission official Yuri Shigachov, in charge of the Kirov file.

"If you look at this case using the logic which pre-vailed at the time — who benefitted from this?" - then Stalin benefitted most of all." Dr. Conquest believes Sta-

dreaded NKVD secret police that he wanted Kirov dead. Leningrad NKVD officers, looking through their files for possible assassins, came across Nikolayev, who had a string of grievances against Kirov after being expelled from the party and sacked

lin made it known to the

from his job in April 1934. But this version is dismissed by retired Communist Party historian Anna Kirilina, who has spent 30 years studying the Kirov case.

She says she was given access to material which no one else has seen, including the original investigation into Nikolayev carried ont immediately after the assassina-

"I personally am convinced that Nikolayev carried ont the killing alone," she said in an interview. "Conquest did not work in the archives. I

She said that by carefully sifting through the material, as well as talking to people who had known Nikolayev, she was able to build up a portrait of a sickly, twisted man who was determined to wreak revenge for the wrongs he felt he had suffered.

who saw injustices every-where. He thought Kirov personified evil," said Kirih-na, who — unlike Dr. Con-quest — believes Nikolayev's vife had at one stage had an

affair with Kirov. Nikolayev's diary showed he began plotting to kill Kirov in August 1934 — "somone has to be shot to shake up the party" — and he wrote to his mother saying he would soon be dead because he wanted to commmit an act to ensure his name lived fore-

Those who opposed this theory say Nikolayev's feel-ings were well known and all the NKVD had to do was to point him at Kirov. "But Stalin would not have

been Stalin had he not taken

advantage of this," conceded The dictator, chafing at the resistance from colleagues on the ruling politburo, acted with lightening speed. First he used the murder to purge Kirov's allies in Leningrad, long seen as a possible centre of resistance to Moscow's

Then, over the next years. the murder became a handy tool to help him decapitate Soviet society, killing off political, cultural and military leaders as well as countless innocent people. Those not shot immediately found themselves in labour camps.

Although the debate continues, Ms. Kirilina does seem to have cleared up one mystery — what happened immediately after the murder and whey some accounts spoke of a second shot. She says the original investigation shows Nikolayev wanted to commit suicide.

After firing once at Kirov he put the gun to his chest and was about to pull the trigger when a nearby workman threw one of his tools at him, hitting him in the face and knocking him to the ground. The bullet intended for Nikolayev's heart burrowed harmlessly into the plasterwork instead.

But this is small change compared to one of the main enigmas continuing to bedevil the world's Soveitologists. "If I had the chance to

solve just one mystery of the Soviet era, I think it would be to clear up the Kirov case

Legendary liners

By Jean Chabrier

This is the name of a remarkable exhibition in the very beautiful Maritime Museum in the Palais de Chaillot in Paris. Its tremendous success is justified by the richness of the collection.

For centuries, the sea was the only means of transport for passengers and goods from one continent to another. Around the middle of the 18th century, with the increase in the needs for communication, the English gov-ernment, soon followed hy the French (order of 1763). gave subsidies to the fastest ships to carry mail: hence the name of "packet-boat" which is the origin of the French word for "liner": "pa-

Their modest size quickly grew with the increase in intercontinental trade and the flux of people, to reach their heyday between the end of the 19th century and 1950-60. Moreover, between these dates, the huge colonial empires necessitated considerable maritime traffic.

It was at this time that the legendary liners appeared. with each company striving to combine speed and safety together with comfort first of all, and then, unheard of luxury, thus creating a certain life-style, which is no more today, and corresponded to commercial requirements. On these liners, even the most underprivileged class. that of immigrants, was accommodated in more humane conditions.

The exhibition begins with a splendid collection of posters from the period, most of which are little masterpieces signed by famous artists and are all invitations to travel (P. Colin, Anvigné, Cassandre, and then Sébille, Brenet, Marin-Marie, Bayle and Taboureau better known by the pseudonym Sandy Hook who died from lead poisoning from having sucked his pen-

cils too much).

Documents from the period and several video shows retrace the terrific development in naval architecture and construction, the progress of various technologies culminating each time; in the creation of a more efficient, safer and more stable liner, better suited to the clientéle it would have to carry and to the line it was intended fot. Sbips intended for the

North Atlantic and those which were to ply the Far Eastern routes were not built or fitted out in the same way. The needs and essential features would obviously not be the same, nor would the length of the crossing and the climatic conditions.

But the layman was naturally far more concerned with what would affect him directly, that is to say the escalating refinement and God knows that French as well as foreign companies did not stint on

Thousands upon thousands of documents, photographs and original drawings exist. covering the period from 1880 to 1960 giving a very accurate idea of the evolution of the notion of luxury and taste, even in the menus proposed or in the gastronomical refinement offered on French boats at least.

Even more revealing are the life-size replicas of apartments, cabins and lounges with the original furnitute and dummies wearing costumes of the period. The liners called the "Paris." the

Poster of the General Transatlantic Company created at the launching of the liner Normandie

ot Far East. Latin America. The idea of cruising for pleasure only really developed between 1920 and 1940. Before that, only unrepentant travellers ot people who were ill (for the benefits of the sea air) went on cruises for their own sake. The famous P & O (Peninsular

and Oriental) appears to have paved the way for leisure cruising from 1885. Today, these legendary lin-

survives thanks to subsidies and the "France" which has

An amusing anecdote con-

become the "Norway.I Their successors. however attractive they may be, will never recreate the art of liv-

ers, unable to compete com-

mercially with ait ttavel, have

disappeared, apart from the

Queen Elizabeth II" which

ing of the legendary liners, as they have been designed and built for mass tourism.

sian gas lamp-posts, but this was not at all a piece of fantasy by the ship's interior designer. The idea was to stop Ametican and French dogs from feeling perturbed when needing to relieve nature. So, as can be seen, enormous attention was paid

the "France." On this deck

there were two New York

fite hydrants, facing two Pari-

to detail in those days. cerns the promenade-deck of L'actualite en France.

"Nikolayev was a very vengeful, up-tight person, Conquest. making central committee Caucasian powder keg major stake in Kremlin policy

By Paola Messana

Agence France Presse MOSCOW — The Caucasus, a corridor from East to West and divided between Islam and Christianity, has always been a powder keg, where myriad ethnic groups are again at war and the stakes

for Russian policy are high. The push by Russian troops into Chechenya, the tiny Muslim republic asserting its independence of Moscow, marks a further escalation of the past two years of more or less disguised intervention, with Russian troops stationed as peacekeepers in Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Geor-

In addition to the need to restore a secessionist pro-vince to the bossom of the Russian Federation, the Chechenya operation shows Moscow's determination to keep a grip on an oil-rich strategic zone lying between the Caspian and Black seas where hundreds of thousands of Russians live.

Since the Soviet Union fell apart at the end of 1991, the Caucasus has been torn by ethnie conflict, due to arbitrary border demarcations in Stalin's time or to successive waves of colonisation.

President Boris Yeltsin's nationalities adviser Emil Pain noted that 'in a region which was already a tinderbox, new autonomous powers have risen up and hlown the embers into flame."
As far back as 1988, there was already war over

Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-peopled enclave in Further explosions have followed, weighty with the

consequences of flows of re-fugees and the difficulty, if not impossibility, of further cohabitation by Christian and Muslim communities.

South Ossetia with its Orthodox population, traditional allies of the Russians, wants to join North Ossetia in Russia.

Separatist Abkhazia, after two years defying Georgian rule, is still unbowed. The 40,000 Muslim Ingush chased out of the suburbs of Viadikavkaz, the North Ossetian capital, in 1992, have still not returned home, and Orthodox followers have taken over many of their houses.

Russia was very quick to make it clear, that even though the empire had crumbled, it still had its word to say and meant to hold on to its sphere of influence.

Keen to maintain a democratie image for the new regime here, the authorities acted circumpsectly within Russia's own borders. The Chechenya operation is the first example of a tougher

Explaining Russian intervention outside its borders, Mr. Pain said that Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan were members of the Commonwealth of Independent States who used Russian weaponry and wanted more.

Moreover, those conflicts had a direct effect on Russia. Nobody, apart from Russia, would or could take part in a peace force, Mr. Pain said. A western diplomat cast doubt on the capacity of the

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe to send a buffer force to Nagorno-Karabakh, as decided in principle at its Budapest summit last week.

There was implicit western endorsement of Russian intervention, he said, since the West had little stomach for having to admit yet again its powerlessness to settle conflicts of the post-communist

A Russian expert on internal policy forecast that none of the conflicts, the Chechenya rebellion included, had any chance of being properly settled next

> There would be a "bumprocess of pacification, bit by bit, and it remained to be seen what the repercussions would be on the 1995 general election and the 1996 presidential race, he said. "Let us hope Russia

escapes a real regional war,"

Cutting cholesterol can save lives, too

By Gina Kolata

NEW YORK - For the first time, a study has found that lowering cholesterol not only reduces the risk of heart attack hut also saves lives.

Until now, large studies of cholesterol-lowering drugs have shown that it can reduce deaths from heart attacks but not the overall death rate.

People who lowered their cholesterol levels with drugs died at higher rates of other causes, like cancer or violence or suicide. The connection was a mystery, but the numbers sparked a hitter debate over whether cholesierol lowering was worthwhile.

A new study in Scandinavia, scientists say, emphan-cally answers that question. The study involved 4,444 now change. men and women aged 35 to 70 with heart disease who had moderate to high cholesterol

Half took a potent eholesterol-lowering drug, simvastatin, that cut their cholesterol levels by an average 35 per cent. The others took a placebo. After following the participants for a median of 5.4 years, the researchers discovered that the death rate in the simvastarin group was 30 per cent lower than that in the control

These results, coming after 20 years of futile efforts to show that eholesterollowering could save lives, is expected to resolve a debate that has divided scientists and confused the public. And it is expected to herald a new emphasis on the aggressive treatment of high cholesterol levels in people at risk for heart attacks.

Although most doctors do not now prescribe cholesterol-lowering drugs even to those who have already had a heart attack, researchers agreed that will

"This study will change medical practice," said Dr. Michael Brown, a Nobel laureate and a heart-disease researcher at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas.

Dr. Suzanne Oparil, the

president of the American Heart Association and a cardiologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said she had been a sceptic about cholesterol-lowering, but that the new results changed my mind."

"He de France." the "Nor-

mandie" and the "France"

wete the pride of the mer-

chant fleet and ambassadors

of France, but there were

also other ships which were

less prestigious but just as

remarkable: the "Matseil-laise," the "Felix Roussel."

the "La Bourdonnais." "Pas-teut." "De Grasse," etc.

Great artists designed the interiors. On the "Norman-

die," the furniture was by

Ruhlman, the light-fittings by

Lalique, the low reliefs by

Janniot a student of Bourdel

le's, the laquerwork by

Dunand, the ironwork by

Subes, and the goldwate de-

signed by Lanel and made by

Christofle. Subes also work-

ed on the "France," together

with Leleu, Champlain, Dar-

bois, Lurçat, Ingrand, Old.

The care taken to create an

appropriate setting was car-

ried to the extent of designing

a special interior for each

liner, according to the line it

was to ply, so that it evoked

the culture and civilisation of

the country of destination

(Egypt, Greece, the Middle

Picart-Ledoux and Prou.

The investigators found that for every 100 people who took simvastatin, nine would have been expected to die of heart disease, hut only four

And of the 19 who would have been expected to have bypass surgery or halloon angioplasty, only six required these procedures. And most group had no increase in deaths from other causes, like cancer.

The drug has few side

The study, called the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study, was carried out independently at 94 clinical centres in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and

International Herald Tribune.



Save water...
Every drop counts!

Rich states to be more generous to poor debtors

creditor nations of the Paris Club agreed Friday to offer more generous debt relief to very poor countries to help jolt them out of a poverty

Christian Nover, the French treasury head who chairs the club, said some countries would now be able to have 67 per cent of their debts written off, up from 50 per cent.

Some may also get relief on all their debts, not just those payments falling due in a one or three-year period. This is a highly significant move for the club, which previously granted such deals only to richer special cases like Poland and Egypt.

Mr. Nover told reporters the new measures, collectively known as Trinidad terms after the 1990 conference at which they were first proposed by Brirish Prime Minister John Major, were "a new and important step in the strategy of debt treatment for the poorest and most indebted countries.

What we want is that all these countries can take off as soon as possible." he said. stressing the club wanted to end the dreary cycle of debt. poverty and default that has trapped large parts of Africa and some Latin American and Asian countries.

All members of the club agreed on the move which is in line with a resolution passed by the Group of Seven leading economic powers at their last summit in Naples in

July.
Club sources have said some countries, notably France and Britain which more reluctant partners like the United States, still want a few countries to be able to get as much as 80 per cent of debt written off.

Crinics say Paris and London are using the debt issue to sustain neo-colonial links with their former African empires.

Trinidad terms will give a poor country with a strong track record of meeting commitments under previous deals with the Paris Club and the International Monetary Fund the chance to strike a once-and-for-all rescheduling of all of its debts.

Mr. Nover underlined that such "exit reschedulings" will remain relatively rare since any failure to service debt under such a pact would destroy the borrower's credibility and deny it access to funds for years to come. he said.

Such deals do not mean extra generosity on the part of the creditors - in fact they may be tougher than standard accords — but will be a vote of confidence that will let countries win better terms on new debts from banks and other creditors.

Mr. Nover said a small number of countries may be awarded once-and-for-all deals in the next few months. He declined to name them, but other sources close to the club have said recently that Uganda, Bolivia and Nicaragua might be among the

In total, about 60 countries are poor enough - with annual income per head less than \$695 — to qualify, and of these some 27 have debts that have had to be rescheduled in the Paris Club.

EU heads into '95 with economic engine reviving

European Union (EU) is heading into the second half of the decade with its economic engine firing on all cylinders and creation of a single currency seriously in pros-

"The nature of the present recovery process ... which was driven ininally by exports and subsequently by a strong rebound in investment, bodes well for the achievement of the main medium-term targets in terms of growth and employment," the European Commission said in its annual economic report.

growth would average a com-fortable three to 3.5 per cent between now and the end of the century after shrinking by 0.3 per cent last year.

One commission official said at the EU's summit io Essen at the weekend that the average would be 3.4 per

Governments are beginning to make headway in the battle to get their finances in order and currencies are remarkably stable in most countries after the tyrbulence of 1992 and 1992

The demon of inflation. though showing slight signs of rising again, is deemed to be under control and economic policies are being coordinated to an unprecedented ex-

However, a major problem overhanging the bloc is that of stubbornly high unemploy-

More than 17 million people are out of work now and close to 11 million are expected still to be without jobs in 2000 despite the economic recovery.

Nevertheless, the commission has calculated that, with a bit of determination, the EU's target of creating a sing-

more achievable less than 18 months after many people had declared the plans dead. "If additional efforts are

made along the lines agreed in the broad economic policy guidelines of 1993 and 1994, there is a realistic chance of achieving the goal of having a majority of member states fulfilliog the convergence criteria by 1996-97," the com-

mission's report said. The main themes of the guidelines are cutting govern-ment debts and deficits and curbing wages. Under the Maastricht ttea-

ty, a majority of countries

can move to srage three of economic and monetary union on Jan. 1, 1997 as long as they meet the criteria on debts, deficits, inflation, interest rates and currency sta-

Of these enteria, the two key stipulations are that gov-ernment deficits should be below three per cent of gross dumestic product or approaching it at a satisfactory rate, and that debt should be below or approaching 60 pet cent of

Two months ago the commission ruled that only Luxembeurg and lee these two criteria. and Iteland met

commission's report avoided iming the countries it thought likely to meet the single starrency criteria by 1997, but its figures on debts and defects suggest De-nmark. Germany. France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Britain and Au-

Theseffeight countries would constitute a majority of the IIIPs then 15 members. However, Denmark will baydito hold a referendum and Britain has said a teferenden is a possibility. 1

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Kuwait plans 95/96 budget cuts

KUWAIT (R) - Ruwait is tries (OPEC) meets in planning large budget cuts and might raise prices of some services to achieve a zero deficit by the year 2000, the finance minister has said.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan also told Reuters in an interview that the emirate, which relies heavily on oil revenue, was to factor into its next budget plan a higher OPEC oil outout quota which it plans to seek for 1996.

Sheikh Rodhan, asked if Kuwait regards any increase in its OPEC quota as a target as it draws up the budget, said: "Yes ... the demand of increasing Kuwait's quota is not the demand of the oil minister only, it is a governmental demand."

The Kuwait News Agency KUNA Saturday quoted Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen Mudej as saying he would ask OPEC to increase its output quota by 200,000 b/d when OPEC reviews quotas.

Kuwait had said it would adhere to its current 2.0 million quota but that it would ask for the quota increase when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting CounNovember 1995 to review Oil supplies about 90 per

cent of the revenue for Kuwait's budget, which par-liament is due to receive in May for debate. Sheikh Rodhan said the emirate targets a zero budget

deficit by the year 2000 and it sees a budget cut of up to \$1.0 billion in the 1995 96 fiscal year to achieve that He said a government committee was drawing up plans to trim spending and increase

non-oil revenue in the emirate, where about one million of the 1.7 million population are expatriates, mostly Asian and Arab workers. "The cabinet ... set the

year 2000 for a zero deficit," Sheikh Rodhan said. "That is not only a target and a wish. There are measures taken to reach that target.'

"We are trying to reduce (the budget) by 250 to 300 million dinars (\$834 million to \$1.0 billion) per year according to the programme," he said, "This year ... we are talking about 250 to 300 million.

He said Kuwait was reviewing prices of public services, electricity, water, telecommunications, fuel and customs fees and ruled out for now introducing any taxes in the next budget.

Most of these services are offered for prices that are close to symbolic and heavily subsidised," ne said.

"There will not be a sales tax for the time being. We have excluded that until economic positions improve. the minister said. "Taxing the income of individuals and companies, that will come for sure im the future)."

Kuwait currently provides Kuwaitis with free education and health services, guarantees jobs for virtually all nationals, and supplies public services either free or at minimal charges. Sheikh Rodhan said the

government might me \$12 per har-rel of oil during Kuwair's fiscal year, starting July 1, as a conservative estimate when drawing up the budget. Kuwait projects 3,973 bil-hon dinars (\$13.2 billion)

Egypt rejects IMF demand to devalue pound

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Prime Minister Atet Sedki has ruled out once and for all any devaluation of the pound as demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

"The government is not going to devalue the cound." said Dr. Sedki, quoted by Saturday's edition of the day ly Al Massa.

"The devaluation file has been closed for good and the government will not allow the adoption of similar measures such as lowering interest rates on bank deposits in egyuptian pounds," he said.

An IMF delegation has been in Caro since the beginnine of this month to evaluate Egypt's economic tetorm programme, launched after the two sides signed an accord in 1991. The talks are due to end Monday.

The IMF is demanding a gradual devaluation by 25 per cent of the Egyptian currency, arguing the pound's inflated value is damaging ex-

amount to no more than 60

per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and the pub-

he deficit must be no more

than three per cent of GDP.

tion of the deficits, and in any

case uncertainty must under

no circumstances become a

pretext for concern," he said.

trations would amount to ab-

out 49 per cent of GDP in

1994 from 45.8 per cent in

1993 but would be stabilised

at "significantly less than 55

per cent of GDP" in 1997.

terms of GDP, would be sta-

A five-year plan to reduce the budget deficit "is on the

rails." Under this plan the

budget deficit is to be re-

duced to 3.5 per cent of GDP

bilised in 1997, he said.

The state debt alone, in

The debt of public adminis-

"Nobody is questionliff the

Egyptian exports are cinrently worth St tol billion a year, while the IMF forecast they would reach \$2.98 bdhon in the 100%.04 financial

But Dr. Sedki insisted, "It is not true that such a measure would improve exports. On The contrary it would push up the price of imported products, especially industnai equipment, and so in-

crease inflation. The IMF, unhappy with the pace and scope of Egypt's reforms, befused to give the go ahead for the scheduled carculation of around \$4 bilhon of Taypt's debt to the Pans Club, a group of credi-tor countries

Servicing the debt costs Egypt some \$350 million a

Dr Settki and the "delay in the cincellation" of the debt "will not have negative repercussions" on the Egypt

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make your abode more charming today by rethinking your attitude and get lato some form of recreation in the outdoors that can help to refere the tensions you are under from your present work load.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think about altof your partners and know how to improve the relationship with them. A day for planning and meditation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a goodelay to repay favours to those who have been good to you in one way or another. Be happy at home in the evening with loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good day to be with congenial friends and associates at the pleasures you returnly enjoy. Show more courtesy towards your loves ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Things should go well at home, and you can make any changes which you deem necessary. Be charming towards your close friends. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be wherever you can elevate your

consciousness and be more aware of your potential success and endeavours. Drive with utmost care today.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan flow to improve your surroundings and property so that it become more valuable. Know what your potential success can be at this time.

LIBEA: (September 23 to October 22) You are magnetic now and you should use this quality to gain whatever is most desirable. Driving could be hazardous on the highway today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to seek knowledge and information of all sorts, especially of a philosophical nature. Make a new friend,

SAGITTARRUS: (November 22 to December 21) A fine day for being with friends and loved ones and making better plans for the future. Take time for meditation and solitude.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Saidy your position in the community in which you dwell and know how best to improve it.

Arrive on time for any appointment you may have.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Meet with the deverest persons you know and have a meeting of mints and be mutually cooperative. Take it easy tonight with loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get closer to your family and friends today for some pleasant times. Make this a memorable day and evening for all those in your company.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

THE Daily Crossword by ALB 1 Tooth 6 Not all 10 Moiety 14 Bouquel 15 Khayyam 18 Robort — 17 Israel poi 18 Tops 20 How cards should be helt 23 Sunday tab: abbr. 24 See in the detained 25 Pindar work 28 Cerathern 21 Setto 25 — morn (den) 36 Hote away 38 Adjust boundaries 39 Certain meetings 42 Distribute 43 Trps 44 Past 45 Peter and Paul 47 Refrain syllabil 48 Steep letters. 49 Equipment 18 Neither's relatified 18 Neither's relatified 18 Heither's relatified 44 — Cay 65 Adolescent 65 Kmd of tide 57 Once more DOWN 1 Artist Chagail 2 Nuncupative 3 Western temb

Australia applies interest rate brakes to speeding economy

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia's central bank applied the brakes to the country's runaway economy, lifting the official interest rate by one percentage point and triggering a rally on currency and

bond markets. Authorities said they were determined to prevent a rise in inflation as a result of 6.4 per cent economic growth in the year to September, which was among the fastest in the industrialised world.

"Today's rise was essential to moderate demand growth and avoid a boom-bust cycle developing." Treasurer Ralph Willis told media.

Peanuts

Andy Capp

JORDAN TIMES

Tel:667171

Ser actuality and will be actually and will suppose the series

November's economic data mand," Mr. Willis said. indicated a need for a higher interest rate to "moderate

inflationary pressures." "The decision reflects the commitment of the government and the Reserve Bank to maintain a low inflation environment and encourage further significant and sustained reductions in unem-

ployment." he said. "Today's rate rise will not put at risk continued growth in investment and employment. On the contrary, it will

help ensure that economic

HOLD THE TEA BAG, PLEASE.

<>>

Mr. Willis said high de- recovery is sustained by medmand growth revealed in erating the expansion in de-

Mr. Willis indicated earlier the government would also tighten fiscal policy in 1995. telling business economists: "If the government does decide to tighten fiscal policy, in my view it will be difficult not to increase taxes."

Bernie Fraser, governor of the central bank, said underlying consumer prices were rising by only about two per cent a year, as they had been

for about three years. A report by Citibank Australia forecast another interest rate rise of around 0.75 percentage points from February, adding that slower economic activity and tighter fiscal policy would lead to the rate peaking at around 9.0 per cent.

France to reduce borrowing

public spending in the current

fiscal year with a hadget gap

of 1 502 billion (\$5.0 billion).

PARIS (AFP) - France is to cut its borrowing requirement by 30 billion frames (\$5.3 billion) next year. Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said Friday

He said deficit reduction remained a government priority. He also forecast that the

economy might grow by nearly 3.5 per cent next year. In remarks interpreted as a response to a warning by the governor of the Bank of France Jean-Claude Tichet Thursday that the government had to bear down on deficits Mr. Alphandery said that France would meet the budgetary criteria laid down

under the Maastricht treaty. The state had set its borrowing requirement for next year at 470 billion francs (\$84 billion) from a planned figure of 500 billion francs in 1994, Mr. Alphandery told a conference.

HE REFUSES TO

ANSWER THAT SORT

OF QUESTION ON THE

2

♡

This reduction reflected a reduction of the budget deficit. In 1995 the issue of bonds with same specile as treasury bonds (OATs); would amount to about 250 billion france from 256 billion francs in 1994 and the issue of treasury bonds bearing annual interest (BTAN) to about 220 billion francs.

In 1994 the borrowing programme would have been completed to the extent of 99.2 per cent. In 1995 the total of issues would be reduced by 26 billion frames from the figure for 1994.

Mr. Alphandery said that France would meet the two criteria for deticits laid down under the Maastricht tteaty for economic and political cooperation within the European Union.

The consolidated debt of

in 1995 from 4.1 per cent in public institutions must



after dinner. I thought flossing them might be more polite!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMELED WORD GAME

By Henri Armold and Miles Arginian

Print answer here: A

Do you have a light?

WHAT SHE WAS

LOOKING FOR AT

Now arrange the circled latters to torm the surprise answer as angular gested by the above contoon.

THE SINGLES DANCE



usiness aily

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Refinery sells gas cylinders directly to public

☆☆ The Jordaniao Petroleum Refinery Co. (JPRC) is filling gas cylinders at a rate of 91,000 a day and has started selling them directly to the public at a cost of JD 18.050 per cylinder holding 12.50 kilogrammes of gas. Selling centres are oow at Umm Al Hiran, JPRC headquarters in Jabal Amman (First Circle), the JPRC office in Irbid and at the refioery site near Zargs. Additional ceotres in all governorates will be announced tbis week. According to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Talal Ureiqat, JPRC had filled nearly one million cylinders with gas since the beginning of the year. He said the refinery, which makes between 300 to 500 cylinders a day, had manufactured 107,000 cylinders during the past eleven months, 20,000 more than the output during the same period last year. The minister said anybody has the right to import gas cylinders as long as they meet the terms and specifications of the Mioistry of Industry and Trade and the JPRC (Al Ra'i)

* The Al Sharq Investment Projects Co. was declared operational after completing all the required legal steps. Chosen for the board of directors at a general assembly meeting were: Dr. Ahmad Hourani (chairman), Mobammad Saleh Hourani (deputy chairman and geoeral manager), Dr. Ziyad Fariz, Azzam Yaish, Munjed Sokhtian, Mobsmmad Wasfi Daraghmeb and the Uoited Jordanian Company for In-Sharq plan to build a 4-star botel in Amman and a commercial and amusement centre on the same location. They are already making the oecessary contacts, to select an ioternational company to manage and run the botel. Furtbermore, Al Sbarq founders have conducted studies to set up a factory to produce corn starch and are negotiating with an iodustrial firm which manufactures manufactures boilers for central beating over an investment that would expand, modernise and raise the output of the factory (Al Dustour).

** Vegetable and fruit imports from the West Bank and Gaza during November 1994 amounted to about 11,000 tonnes (Al Dustour).

* Amman is home to 25 per cent of the Kiogdom's population but it also has the largest nomber of "urban poor." According to a study, the largest concentration of poor lives in Al Yarmouk area on the eastern outskirts of Amman (Al Dustour).

** Tomato prices will be going down within 8 week as the Ghor Al Safi produce begins to flow to the market. An agricultural engineer predicted a good quality supply of tomatoes will be on the market over the coming three months (Al Aswaq).

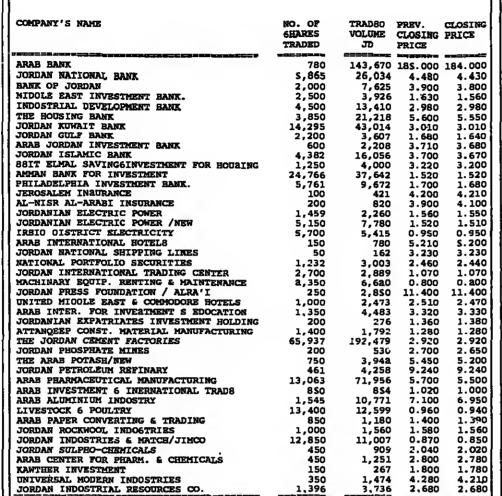
** The livestock market is expected to become a flourisbing business once trade opens up with Gaza and the West Bank. According to ioformed sources Jordan's slaughterhouses could provide 40 per cent of the meat needs of the self-rule Palestiniao areas where a kilogramme of meat costs now up to JD 10 (Al Aswaq).

And Amman will be divided into three sections for the purpose of collecting water charges, laying down of water networks, maintenance and receiving complaints and follow ups. The south Amman section, which will cover about 35,000 people living in Sabab, Quweismeh, Abu Alanda and Al Muqablain, will start its functions early next year to be followed later by the other two sections (Sawt Al Shaab).

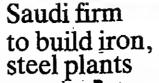
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MANAMA (R) — A company owned by Saudi investors plans to build two iron and steel products plants in Bahrain at a cost of \$600 millioo, iodustry sources have said

They said United Industrial Investment Company (UIIC) was negotiating with two German firms to build the plants to meet a growing demand for products in the

One senior industry source named the two German en-gioeering and contracting

companies as Mannesmano-Demag MMWG and Lurgi.
"We are waiting for the financial side to be finalised in Germany and work for the construction of the plants is expected to start early in 1995," he told Reuters.

He said the bulk of the plants' cost would be financed by a German bank, which be declined to name. A portion of the cost would also be raised from banks in Bahrain, he added.

When completed in three years, the iron plant would have a one-million-tonne production capacity to produce HPI (hot bracketed iron) and the steel plant 200,000 tonnes of seamless pipes aonually.

Gulf privatisation plan may create unemployment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are reluctant to privatise public facilities to offset low oil prices for fear it could create unemployment among their nationals, a regional study said Satuarday.

The six Gulf Cooperation Couocil (GCC) states are striving to convince the private sector to employ more nationals and cut reliance on foreigners, who account for more than balf the work-

But under privatisation many local employees could fied themselves jobless as expatriates are preferred as cheaper and more skilled labour, said the study by Heory Azzam, chief economist at the Naoonal Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

"Public departments in the GCC countries are characterised by the high number of national employees, some of whom will likely lose their jobs when those departments are privatised." Mr. Azzam said in the study, published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Khaleej.

seek to increase foreign workers at the expense of locals because those workers accept low salaries and the labour laws governing them are more flexible in terms of employmeot and sacking,"

be pointed out.

Most GCC citizens prefer the public sector because they get higher wages and more job and retirement be-

GCC governments have sought to force the private sector to take more native workers but mainly in vain. The six states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar.

Bahrain, Oman and the UAE bave announced plans to privatise some key state institutions io sweeping econo-mic reforms triggered by the decline in oil prices. Low prices have created persistent deficits in the GCC

budget and balance of paymeots and forced member states to withdraw from their overseas reserves and borrow from the local and internstional markets. Experts estimated the io-

ternal debt of the six members at around \$79 billion. In Kuwait, Qatar and the

"Private management will UAE, foreigners account for more than two thirds of the total workforce while in Oman and Bahrain, extensive training of locals has eoabled them to ease gradually reliance on expatri-

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and the biggest GCC nation, still has a large foreign labour force de-spite job nationalisation

Mr. Azzam said privatisa-tions could also lead to an increase in prices as the switch to the private sector will remove government 5ub-

In the stock markets, such a process will cause a decline in share prices as the bourses could not be ready to absorb large floatations he added.

In the short term, GCC states will lose from privatisation as they will no longer earn from fully privatised institutions and they do

not impose taxes. Despite the positive objectives of privatisations. the negative effects of the process is forcing GCC governments to hesitate."

Emirates airline posts record \$24 .4m profits

DUBAI (R) - Emirates airline bas said profits in the 1993/4 financial year jumped. to a record \$24.4 million from \$2.9 million the year before.

The airline, owned by the state of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, said it expects to at least match 1993/4 figures in the current financial year to March 31, 1995.

"We are confident that in the next year (1994/5) profit will be at least the same or more than we made this Chairman Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum told a

He attributed sharply higher profits to a 23 per cent

increase in passengers carried to more than two million in 1993/4, innovative and highquality products and rigorous management discipline.

He said the stronger results were achieved during a global recession when the airline industry was suffering from capacity surpluses, low yields and beavy losses.

"Emirates bas demonstrated a record of consistent profitability, whereas the combined loss of the world's airlines in the past four years amounted to \$16 billion." he explained.

This is the first time the airline has released audited

financial accounts. Sbeikh Ahmad said Emirates had decided to release results after continued requests to do so, and to squash claims that the airline was not profitable and relied on gov-

ernment support. The time has come to really show people that we really are profitable," he pointed out.

The airline's first anoual report showed 1993/4's profits of \$24.4 million were generated from total revenue of \$600.44 million from \$497.8 millioo the previous

Total expenditure edged

up to \$570.02 million from \$494.82 million. A 26.9 per cent increase in

cargo revenues brought cargo's contribution to total transport revenue to 14.1 per

cent. Sheikh Ahmad said since it started operating in 1985, Emirates had only "lost a little bit of money — 24 million dirhams (\$6.54 million)" once, in its secood

Profits of \$2.9 million, \$18.38 million, \$6.37 million aod \$9.11 million were recorded in 1992/3, 1991/2, 1990/1 and 1989/90 respec-

Financial Markets

Cairo Amman Bank

TOTAL



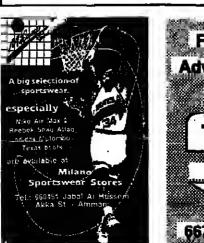
Currency	New York Close Parts/15/15/94	New York Close Date 16/12/9	
Sterling Pound	1.5650	1.5605	
Deutsche Mark	7,5711	1.5728	
Swiss Franc	1.3270	1.3329	
French Franc	5.4145	5.4235	
Japanese Yen	100.38	100.23	
European Curreny Unit	1,2130	1.2125	

Precious Metals Date: 16/12/199					6/12/1994
Metal	t ⁱ SD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	378.85	7.60	Silver	4.80	0.105
11 Karat					

Date: 17/12/1994

Currency	Bld	Offer 0.7040	
ti.S. Dollar	0.7020		
Sterling Pound	1.0941	1.0996	
Deutsche Mark	0.4463	0.4485	
Swiss Franc	0.5264	0.5290	
French Franc	0.1295	0.1299	
Japanese, Yen	0.6990	0.7025	
Dutch Guilder	0.3980	0.4000	
Swedish Kropa	787444	*****	
Italian Lira	0.0428	0.0430	
Selgian Franc	*****	*****	
P- 180			

Per 100				
Other Currencies	Date: 17/12/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Oinar	1.8460	1.8620 0.042580		
Lebanese Lira	0.041225			
Saudi Riyal	0.1860	0.1879		
Kuwaili Oinar	2.5030	2.3600		
Qatari Riyal	0.1916	0.1929		
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150		
Omani Riyal	1.8060	1.8240		
UAE Dirham	0.1905	0.1915		
Greek Drachma	0.2800	0.3165		
Cypriot Pound	1.4015	1.5310		







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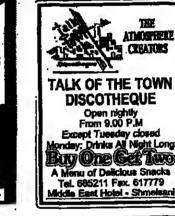
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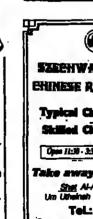
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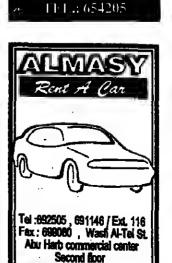
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IOC considers cooling men's marathon in '96

That's wby, come heat or high burnidity, the chief orga-niser of the Atlanta Olympics would like to see the Games finish with the men's

marathon. Billy Payne stressed that athletes, doctors, athletics officials and the world's Olympic committees would help make the decision on wbether running the marathon in the honest part of a southern American summer day poses a bealth risk. Some believe that the event should be staged at a cooler

But Payne, president of the Atlanta Comminee of the Olympic Games, made it plain that were it up to him. tradition would remain untouched.

"Preferably, the marathon ends when the closing ceremonies begin." Payne said after be and other ACOG officials briefed the IOC's executive board on preparations for the Games, now 20 months away.

The issue surfaced again last month when two experienced runners collapsed and died during the New York City Marathon, which was run in unseasonably warm and burnid conditions. With afternoon highs for the final day of the Games, Aug. 4, averaging near 32 degrees celsius (90 Fahrenbeit), and

Phoenix (R) - Danny Manning took charge in the third quarter to help the Phoenix

Suns recover from an early deficit and rip the New York Knicks 106-85 Friday for a

club-record tying 21st straight

Manning scored 17 of his

24 points in the third quarter

and Charles Barkley scored 26 points as the Pacific Divi-

sion leading Suns tied a team

mark for consecutive bome

wins set over two seasons

from March 2 to November

came March 18 last season

against Detriot. They are 10-

0 this season at the America

"I guess the Knicks weren't

used to the defensive basket-

ball of the west," quipped Phoenix coach Paul Westphal

after beating defence-minded

New York, the beasts of the

"Obviously we caught

them at a good time. They

were missing (Charles) Oak-

ley, they played last night and we took advantage of both of

those things. To be up by six at halftime, sboot 43 per cent and win the game by 25, it's a

credit to our defence. We are

playing the best defence

The Knicks led by nine in

the first quarter, and trailed

47-44 in the third before

Manning scored 14 in a 22-7

"We bave a lot of weapons

on this team and when one

guy gets a hand, we try to go

to that person," Manning

Patrick Ewing scored 15

At Minnesota, Isaiah Rid-

er capped off a 27-point per-

formance with a spectacular

three-point play with two

points to lead New York's

scoring.

we've ever played."

The Suns' last home loss

home victory.

30, 1980.

West Arena.

ATLANTA (AP) — The humidity 10 match, some Olympics are very big on world-class marathoners have called for the Olympic race to be run in the morning, as the women's marathon has been since it joined the Games in

> Payne is solidly among those who disagree.

Timing of the men's marathon is linked with a second issue in Atlanta — the desire of IAAF president Primo Nebiolo to add a ninth day of his sport to the Olympic schedule, which would generate more TV money for his organisation. Nebiolo ultimately will have the marathon is run.

There's plenty of time to come to that decision, Payne

Payne and other ACOG officials also gave the International Olympic Committee board their first peeks at the opening ceremonies. Without giving details. Payne told a news conference the opening would show the "rich and diverse" makeup of the American South. Even with a mixed regional history. Payne said the show would not be sugar coated.

The American southern states seceded from the federal government in 1860 over the desire to keep black slaves, sparking the American Civil War which lasted until 1865.

★Yokozuna was at the Games: Sumo wrestlers will

Patrick Ewing

attempts to steal it away

seconds left, lifting the Tim-

berwolves to their first home

victory of the season 94-93

an inbounds pass at the left

side of the three-point arc.

dribbled towards the foul

line, then spun and hit a bank

shot in the lane as be was

at the end of the game using

his athletic ability and quick-

ness to get into the paint,"

said Nets coach Butch Beard.

"Defensively, we converged

on bim well, he just used his

talent to get to the boop."

first at bome in 11 games this

season. Derrick Coleman led

O'Neal scored 40 points and

grabbed 18 rebounds and

Anfernee Hardaway had 38

points and 13 assists as the

Orlando Magic beat Golden

State 131-128 in overtime and

banded the Warriors their

the Nets with 22 points.

The win was the T-Wolves'

At Golden State, Shaquille

"J.R. made a great move

Trailing 93-91, Rider took-

over the New Jersey Nets.

Phoenix romp past Knicks for home record win

programme. heave their considerable bulk

at the next winter Olympics. Sumo wrestling was included in plans approved by the 1OC executive board for a cultural festival to accompany the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, in 1998.

Medals will not be awarded, the sumo compentors will be among the artists, actors and flower arrangers who will provide Olympic visitors with "an introduction to another facet of Japanese

☆ Out with the old, in with the new: The panel that has decided for decades what sports are on the Olympic schedule was thrown out Thursday and replaced with a pair of blue-ribbon panels.

IOC general secretary Francois Carrard said the execurive board decided to disband the programme commission, which has reviewed applications for Olympic status from sports ranging from

gold to bodybuilding.
In its place will be two panels of experts on various areas of the games, from sports to finance. They will include but won't be limited to IOC members, Carrard

The IOC official said the move was aimed at eliminating political influence from decisions on Olympic berths and to streamline the process for considering changes in the

ninth consecutive loss.

17-4 overall.

The win was the 15th in 17

games for the Magic, who

improved to an NBA-best

Magic 15-5 in the final 3-12

minutes to tie the game at

121-121 and force the over-

Dennius Scott and Brian

Shaw combined to score

seven of Orlando's 10 points

in overtime. O'Neal hit 15-of-

20 shots from the field, while

At Indiana, Reggie Miller

scored 22 points, including a

pair of free throws with six

seconds left to break a tie.

lifting the Pacers to a 93-91

win over the Charlotte Hor-

Dell Curry was wbistled for

a controversial foul as Miller

drove the left side of the lane.

Miller's two free throws snap-

ped a 91-91 tie and Curry's

three-pointer at the Buzzer hit the back of the rim and

Hardaway was 16-of-24.

Golden State outscored the

⇒ Remnants of the Soviet Uniou, unite: Six former republies of the Soviet Union have formed a sports union, but don't look for a return of the Olympic superpower of the last four decades. as provisional. National Olympic Commit-

tee from Azerbaijan, Armenia. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan. Russia and Uzbekistan formed the Association of the Olympic Commonwealth to further "the multilatera! cooperation in the field of sports and strengthening of

There are no plans to field a united team. officials said. IOC member and Russian Olympic Committee president Vitali Smirnov was elected president of the new association.

the Olympic movement.

 □ Uphill struggle for Olympic rugby: Rugby may yet make it to the 2000 Olympic Games but the chances appear to be slim, according to a top Sydney organiser Friday.

John Coates, vicechairman of the organising committee, said that the inclusion of two new sports taekwondo and triathlon by the International Olympic Committee had made it more

difficult for rugby.
"We have just included two new Olymoic sports," Coates said. "We must keep the 10,000 athletes figure as a

bounced away.

"It was a terrible call." said

the disgruntled Curry, who

was restrained from the offi-

cials by teammates following

the game. "He just made a

bad call. It was a big game,

and to lose it like that takes

all the effort we put into the

ana's 26 points in the third

quarter as the Pacers pared

down a six-point balftime de-

The Hornets were led by

22 points from Larry John-

In Atlanta, the Chicago

Bulls held the Hawks without

a field goal in the final five

After a layup by Tyrone

Corbin with 5:20 remaining

gave Atlanta a 78-77 lead, the

Bulls finished with an 8-2

with 22 points and eight re-

bounds. Toni Kukoc bad 11

points coming off the bench.

Scottie Pippen led Chicago

minutes to win 85-80.

Miller scored 12 of Indi-

maximum. We cannot include another sport without eliminating some other sport such as beach volley, canoe statom or softball, which is coming on strong in Australia, and which are on the programme

"This will be decided, if we have to discuss the issue, in December 1996, after the Atlanta Games," he said.

⇒ What Chinese doping scandal: The Olympics' top antidoping official said Friday that drug use by athletes in China is no worse than in any other country.

Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the International Olympic Committee's medical commission. downplayed the recent spate of positive tests involving Chinese athletes as isolated

While ruling out any systematic doping programme in China, De Merode called on Chinese sports bodies to take tough sanctions against any coaches or officials who might be responsible for pro-viding drugs to atheltes.

But De Merode said there

was no reason to single out

'The Chinese had a delegation of 500 Athletes at the Asian games, and about 10 positive cases is not such a high oercentage." De Merode said.

Chinese

says he

throat cancer.

star coach

has cancer

HONG KONG (API -

Ma Junren, coach of Chr-

na's record-breaking

women runners known as

Ma's army, has told a Hong

Kong newspaper he has

Ma, famed for his ngor

ous coaching methods and

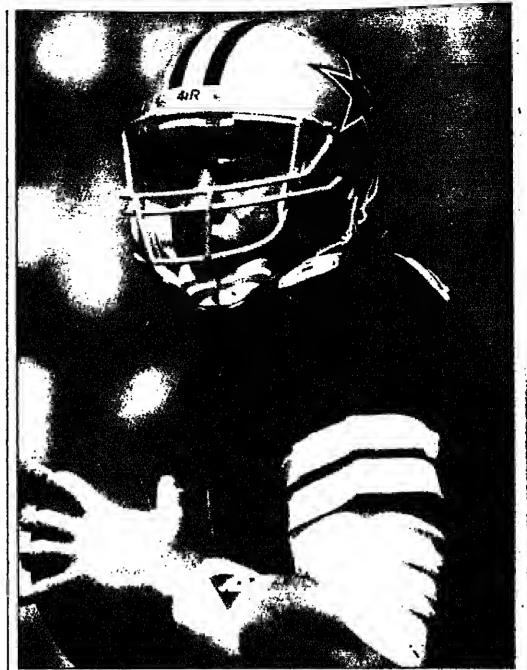
health potions made from

turtle blood, told the East-

ern Express that the doc-

tors who diagnosed his ill-

bedridden if he dies."



Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman

Cowboys, 49ers dominate **Pro Bowl selections**

Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers dominated voting for the Pro Bowl much as they have dominated opponents as the two powerhouses accounted for 2tl spots on the 42-man National Conference Pro Bowl squad.

ness ordered him to stop Ma also said his faither is critically ill, "so I can't risk going to the hospital for and treatment at the moment. I don't want to be through balloting by players, coaches and fans for the

game scheduled for Sunday, The newspaper quoted the 51-year-old coach as saying there had been no was among six Cowboys training for about a month.

Ma's runners dominated named as starters. ast year's World Championships in Stuttgart and shartered the world 1,500-3.000 and 10,000-metres records a month later in Beijtackle Leon Lett.

But this year they missed several major meets and ran below their best at the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October.

In an interview with the Associated Press at the Asian Games, a tiredlooking Ma said be felt overworked, was vomiting his food and suffering from stress-induced blood press-

ure problems. Ma told the Eastern Express that more tests were needed to determine the extent of his cancer and possible treatment.

NEW YORK (R) - The le Dana Stubblefield.

Eleven members wis the ing his sixth successive Eastern Division champion appearance appearance Cowboys and nine players of Woodson was juilled by from the Western Division linebackers Kevin Greene champion 49ers were selected and Greg Lloyd, safety Car-

February 5 in Honolulu. Running back Emitt Smith

Smith will be joined by guard Nate Newton, centre Mark Stepnoski, safety Darren Woodson, defensive end Charles Haley and defensive

Other Cowboys selected included quarterback Troy Aikman, wide receiver Michael Irvin, running back Daryl Jobnston, tight end Jay Novacek and guard Mark Tuinei.

Quarterback Steve Young. the National Football League's leading passer, was one of five 49ers named as

starters. Two of Young's favourites targets, wide receiver Jerry Rice and tight end Brent Jones, were also selected, along with cornerback Deion Sanders and safety Merton

are safety Tim McDonald, centre Bart Oates, guard Jesse Sapolu and defensive tack-

The Pittsbutgh Steelers head the AFC roster with six selections, led by cornerback Rod Woodson, who is mak-

nell Lake, guard Dovel Love and centre Dermontti Daw-

Five Minnesota Vikings --quarterback Warren Moon, wide receiver Cris Carter. guard Randall McDaniel, defensive tackle John Randle and kicker Fuad Reveiz --were named to the NFC squad.

The Miami Dolphins bad five players selected to the AFC squad. Quarterback Dan Marino, offensive tackle Richmond Webb and guard Keith Sims were selected as starters, while receiver Irving Fryar and linebacker Bryan Cox were voted as backups.

The San Diego Charges. Cleveland Browns, Denver Broncos, Los Angeles RaiderS and Detroit Lions each have four pro bowlers.

Barry Sanders, who is trying to become the third player in NFL bistory to gain 2,000 rushing yards in a season, was chosen as a starting NFC running back.

The Seattle Seahawks

Chris Warren, the AFC's leading rusher, will start in the backfield along with rookie Marshall Faulk of the Indianapolis Colts.

COF

The most notable name missing from the Pro Bowl is Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Terance Mathis, who is becond in the league with 103recoptions.

Teams thoughng dubitel

With two rounds remaining in the regular season, three American National Football League teams are switching quarterbacks.

The Buffalo Bills were forced to turn to Frank Reich when starter Jim Kelly was ruled out for the remainder of the season - even the playoffs.

At Philadelphia, Bubby Brister takes over for Randall Cunningham in a bid to halt the Eagles' five-game losing streak.

And the Indianapolis Colts have decided to drop Don Majkowski from starter to third-level reserve, and instead go with Jim Harbaugh.

All three of the new starting quarterbacks will be at home Sunday when New England is at Buffalo, the New York Giants travel to Philadelphia.

The next-to-last regualrseason weckend begins Saturday with Minnesota at Detroit and Denver at San Francisco.

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Real, Pesaro lead in Euro basketball

LONDON (R) — Results of Zaghreb (Croatia) 84 Bayer European Champion Clubs' Leverkusen (Germany) 94 Cup basketball semifinal series matches:

☆ In Pesaro: Pesaro (Italy)
 58 Benfica (Portugal)
 75 (41-

leading scorers: Pesaro: Antonello Riva 22 Benfica: Conceicao 23

★ In Bologna: Bologna (Italy) 72 Olympiakos (Greece) 68 (40-38)

Leading scorers: Bologna: Paolo Moretn 20 Olympiakos: Eddie John-

* In Zaghreb: Cibona time. Score at fulltime 83-83.

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K102 VAQ76 VAJ8 ARJ

Partner opens the bidding with one trump. What do you respond?

J6 ♥1098 ♦543 **4**Q743

you hold: •E52 \$\times \qqq43 \qqq62 \qqq42 \qqqq Partner opens the hidding with two no trump. What action do you take?

you hold: 2943 VK106 CKQ 2Q10954 The bidding has proceeded:

Q.5-Neither voluerable, as South

+J5 7AK10582 ○K8 +Q107

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 2 Dol ?
What action do you take?

Q.6-As South, vulnerable, you

4832 ♥KJ109 ♥Void #AJ9652

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

North East South West

1 4 Dbl ? What action do you take?

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iding has proceeded:
North East South
1 \$ 2 \$?
action do you take?

Leverkusen (Germany) 94 (balftime 42-56).

Leading scorers: Cibona — Veljko Mrsic 19, Gerrode Abrams 19, Ivica Zuric 17

Bayer — Thomas Garrick 23, Abdul Shamsud-Deen 20, Hanning 16.

☆ In Barcelona: Barcelona

(Spain) 61 Efes Pilsen (Turkey) 53 (26-30) Leading scorers: Barcelona — Roy Fisher 22, Ferran Martinez 16 Efes Pilsen — Chris Cor-chiani 14, Volkan Aydin 14,

★ In Tel Aviv: Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel) 92 CSKA Moscow (Russia) 89 (after extra-

Ufuk Sarica 13

Champion Clubs' group standings Group :A

Real Madrid (Spain) Pesaro (Italy) Panathinaikos (Greece) Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel) CSKA Moscow (Russia) Psok Salonika (Greece) Olimpija Ljubljana (Slo Benfica (Portugal) Group B

Limoges (France) Barcelona (Spain) Olympiakos (Greece) Bologna (Italy) Cibona Zagreb (Croatia) Efes Istanbul (Turkey) Bayer Leverkusen Germai Joventut Badalona (Spain)

Halftime 38-33) Leading scorers: Maccabi - Radisav Curcic 31, Norris Coleman 19, Eddie 17.

Doron Jamchy 16 CSKA - Igor Koudelin 22, Serguei Panov 18, Patriek

IAAF strips Britain of World Cup place

MONACO (AFP) — The ruling International . Amateur Athletic Federation announced Fri-Britain women's team of its fifth place at the

IAAF World Cup.
The move followed a British Athletic Federation disciplinary hearing which found 800m runner Diane Modahl guilty of a doping offence and banned ber for four years. Modahl, who maintains her innocence,

tested positive at a meeting in Lisbon on June 18. when her urine sample was shown to contain massive levels of the male hormone testosterone. A week later, it was Modahl's 800m victory

at the European Cup meet in Birmingham which enabled Britain to pip Russia to a place at the World Cup in London in September. The IAAF issued a statement saying it had

annulled the British women's performances at Crystal Palace and issued a revised set of World Cup standings. The changes did not affect any of the positions.

Friday's striking from the record books was widely expected after the BAF's decision. Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF general secretary, had written to BAF executive chairman Prof. Peter Radford a week before the World Cup with a clear warning.

should the athlete (Modahl) be eventually rendered ineligible according to IAAF rules and procedures, any result achieved by the British women's team would, regrettably, not be considered valid in the standings of the competition."

day night that it had stripped the Great

"We feel it is our duty to inform you that

Europe won the Cup, followed by the Americas, Germany and Africa. With Britain disqualified, Asia move up to fifth place, Oceania sixth and the USA seventh.

Modahl, who has the right of appeal under BAF and IAAF rules, insisted on Wednesday: "I bave never taken any banned substance. I shall challenge the committee's deci-

Beckenbauer criticises **UEFA** competitions

FRANKFURT (AP) -Franz Beckenbauer has more advice for soccer authorities: A two-tier qualifying round that would eliminate a number of smaller nations before they get to meet the traditional powers.

Beckenbauer, the former German star and coach, was reacting to the current European Championship qual-ifying round, specifically to Germany's recent opponents Albania and Moldova.

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cer powers such as Germany, the Netherlands. Italy and England play each other too infrequently, Beckenhaner wrote in his column Friday in the mass-circulation newspaper Bild.

"First Albania, then Moldova, on Sunday Albania again. To be quite honest: I can't watch these games any more." Beckenbauer wrote! Germany plays Albania in a group 7 qualifier Sunday after beating both Albania and

Moldova on the road. "When I think of national team games, I imagine contests between great nations, with Italy, England, Holland. Now, we have to wait for these classic games two years. Such games as against Moldova and Albania are a devaluation of the national

UEFA, Europe's governing soccer body, should consider such a move, he said. Smaller nations should be helped financially, "but please don't let them play for Enropean Championship points," Beckenbauer said.

The outspoken Beckenbauer was involved in a bitter exchange recently with FIFA, soccer's world governing body.

In an open letter Tognoni suggested Beckenhaner should stick to playing golf, horseback riding, or sailing, but not get involved in a

discussion about the rules. FIFA later apologized for the tone of the letter.

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Assinger leads Austria in downhill

VAL D'ISERE, France (R) Veteran Armin Assinger
led Austria to a clean sweep in the second downhill of the men's Alpine Skiing World

Cup season Saturday.
The 30-year-old from Hermagor clocked 1:56.07 to snatch his fourth World Cup victory, his third in a downhill, ahead of three of his compatriots.

His feat prevented former Olympic champion Patrick Ortlieb, who finished second in 1:56.46, from closing in on Italian slalom king Alberto Tomba at the top of the overall standings.

Tomha, who will start favourite in a giant slalom Sunday, retained first place overall on 250 points to Ortlieb's 230. Yonngster Josef Strobl.

wbo shot to fame on Friday by winning the first ever downhill in his career, confirmed that he bad become, at the age of 20, a skier to watch by taking third place, 42 hun-dredths of a second behind Assinger.

All-rounder Gnenther Mader, third behind Strobl on the same piste on Friday, missed a place on the rostrum by 30 hundredths of a second.

It was the first time since Mareb 1987 in Nakiska. Canada, that a country had four men in the lead in a

Table Tennis World Cup Saive, Gatien reach final

TAIPEI (R) — World num-ber one Jean-Michel Saive beat an injured Zoran Primorac Saturday to claim a place in the World Cup Table Tennis final against Jean-Philippe Gatien.

Belgian Saive overcame bis Brussels elubmate 18-21 21-19 21-12 21-18 after Primorac smashed his band against the table in the second game, causing bleeding and bruising from two fingers and a thumb.

"It was bleeding all the time. 1 lost about 30 to 40 per cent of my concentration, Croatia Primorac said of his injury, suffered as he attempted a top-spin foreband from below the table. World champion Gatien

finally vanquished world number two Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden 21-19 17-21 13-21 21-10 21-12 in the other semifinal.

Walden's concentration looked to be waning in the last two games. He rolled bis eyes and stamped his feet as he lost successive points. The Frenchman said: "I knew I would win in the

middle of the last game. I saw his face. He looked pretty depressed. Enropean champion and world silver medallist Jean-Michel Saive had made it to the semi-final of the World

Cup after beating Taipei's Chiang Peng-Lung. The Belgian world number one was a 21-16, 20-22, 19-21,

21-16, 21-14 winner, while



1992. Olympic champion Swedish Jan-Ove Waldner, eyes the ball during the first run of the 1994 Table Tennis World Cup Cham-pionship (AFP photo)

world champion Jean-Philippe Gatien had one of bis best wins of the season over Wang Tao by 15-21, 21-19, 21-18, 22-20.

In other matches, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden had downed Kong Linghui of Chima 13-21, 21-18, 8-21, 21-

13, 21-7 in a hard-fought vic-279 tory that took him through to the semi-final.

The match between Canadian Johnny Huang and defending champion Primorac saw the former being trounced hy the more experienced Primorac 21-15, 21-19, 18-21, 21-12.

Capriati to play in March

KEY BISCAYNE (AP) -Jennifer Capriati, who upset defending champion and world No. 1 Monica Seles in the 1992 Lipton Championships, will return to the Key Biscayne Tournament in March.

· After not playing competi-tive tennis for more than a year, Capriati, 18, lost her first tournament match last month to Anke Huber at the Virginia Slims in Philadelphia. Her patricipation in the Lipton would be her first South Florida tournament in two years.



Jennifer Capriati

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Frenchman kidnapped and Pakistani shot in Somalia

was wounded and a French aid worker kidnapped Saturday in the lawless capital of Somalia as the United Naoons prepares for what could be a complicated and dangerous pullout in March.

U.N. military spokesman Major Zubair Chattha told reporters that the Pakistani was hit hy a stray bullet and was being treated in the U.N. hospital. His condition was

Chattha said the soldier was at the airport when be

The spokesman said the aid worker, with the French charity Action Internationale Contre la Faim (AICF), was being beld by gunmen who seized him at a roundabout in Mogadishn.

The gunmen, believed to be former employees of the agency, were demanding a ransom for his release, the spokesman said, hut gave no further details.

In Paris, the French Lci television channel named the man as Mare Rudy, 24, and said he was abducted while driving to the airport in the south of the capital, which is controlled by faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideed.

Acts of lawlessness have increased throughout the broken Horn of Africa country where the U.N. has reduced its peacekeeping in readiness for a complete pullout in March, which military analysts say could be complicated and dangerous.

Mogadishu airport, where the Pakistani was shot, is adjacent to the seaport andwill be the main staging ground for the final evacuadon of the last of the 15,000strong U.N. force in Somalia. They are due out before March 31.

U.N. forces have already withdrawn from all Somali towns and villages except the capital, Mogadisbu.

On Friday, U.S. President Bill Clinton approved the dispatch of marines and ships to Somalia to belp protect U.N.

troops as they leave. U.N. officials in Moga disbu told reporters the marine force would number 4,000 and be hacked by massive naval and airpower.

In Washington, U.S. officials said this would possibly include AC-130 Spectre gunships, widely used by the United States last year in a fuole hunt for Mr. Aideed. Besides covering the U.N.

withdrawal, they said, the marines' mission would be to remove weapons, particularly tanks, to prevent their capture hy Somali factions. "We're looking at really...

that last few days of very dangerous separation (with-drawal)." Deputy Secretary of Defence John Deutch said at a Pentagon briefing.

He said Clinton approve tbe U.S. mission, limited specifically to the final days of the U.N. withdrawal, on Friday at a meeting with his top security advisers, including Deutch and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Other U.S. officials said any U.S. comhat involvement in Somalia, if severe fighting broke out before the final U.N. withdrawal for example, would have to be approved by Mr. Clinton separately.

Defence Secretary William Perry told reporters that about 1,800 U.S. marines were preparing to head for the waters off Mogadishu in a three-ship amphibious assault force led by the landing ship Essex. He said more forces would be added later.

"We are getting ourselves in a state of readiness to do this," Mr. Perry told reporters flying home with him from a visit to Moscow.

Admiral William Owens. vice chairman of the U.S. military joint chiefs of staff. said at the Pentagon briefing that the marines in Mogadishu would be supported by overwhelming force offshore.
The U.N. Security Council

agreed on Nov. 4 to end its costly Somalia mission, calling for a secure withdrawal. The U.N. sought help from the United States, Britain. France, Italy, India and Pakistan for the operanon. under threat of looting from

fighong factions.

U.N. troops were first deployed in 1992 to rescue Somalis from famine and chaos in which hundreds of thousands died and more than one million fled to neighbouring countries after the downfall of President Mohammad Siad Barre the



Syria denies getting arms from N

DAMASCUS (AP) - A government-run newspaper Saturday denied Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's allegations that North Korea is providing Syria with sophisticated weapons.

"Rabin's statements are a sheer lie because evidence has proven that Israel is the country which is accumulating weapons, assembling missiles and spending funds aoundantly on developing and modernising its arsenal to threaten the Arabs and to spread its hegemony in the Arabarena," the Tishnin daily said in a front-page edito-

Mr. Rahin, speaking in the South Korean capital. of Seoul, Wednesday accused North Korea of oroviding Iran and Syria with Soud-C missiles. These have a range of 310 miles (500 kilometres). He also urged the United States and South Korea to try to persuade Pyongyang to curtail arms sales, saving the North's actions encourage Islamic extremists in Iran and threaten moderate Arab na-

North Korea has said Israel was "fabricating groundless "Undoubtedly. Istael's attempts to disarm the Arabs

aims at weakening the Arabs. to drag them into more concessions in lands and rights and to impose its conditions on them." Tehrin added. It charged that the Israeli

accustions are a new "manocurre to evade the peace process and to sabotage peace efforts."

"Whenever there is a glimmer of hope in the horizon of

the peace process, Israel resorts to manoeuvre and detour to avoid the bases of the peace process," it noted. "Israel can't turn facts up-

side down nor can it go on with its misleading methods. because facts have proven that Israel is the source of tension and disturbance in the region." the newspaper

Syria's peace negotiations with Israel have been stalemated since Fehruary. But Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa disclosed last week that contacts are to be resumed in Washington at a date so far not specified.

It is not known if these will lead to a resumption of fullscale negotiations, but the contacts are seen as an advance that could lead to more

meaningful developments. Meanwhile Mr. Rabin lett Seoul for Uzbekistan Saturday after meeting with leading South Korean business conglomerate heads on the last day of a four-day official

He spent the last day of his stay meeting with representatives of South Korean conglomerates, including Hyundai. Dacwoo and Lucky Goldstar to decuss ways to enhance comomic cooperanon between the two coun-

Koo Ja-Kyong, chairman of the Lucky Goldstar Group, told Mr. Rabin that a strategic alliance between Israeli firms and the group in electronics and the petrochemicals industry would be desirable, a spokesman of the group said.

Princess Anne visits troops at Belfast prison

LISBURN, Northern Ireland (AP) - Princess Anne met troups guarding Northern treland's top-security Maxe Prison where many IRA and plu British "loyalist" con-victs are held. The Princess Royal is columnlin-chief of the King's Royal Hussars, who patrol the perimeter of the jail at Lisburn, southwest of Belfast. The princess, daughter of Queen Ehrabeth II, also met Friday with Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew, Britain's senior official in the pro-

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Fujimori surprised at wife's decision to divorce

LIMA (AFP) - President Alberto Fujimori said his wife's decision to seek a divorce had eaught him of guard, and that Peru's regutation was being marred by the media circus surrounding his mantal woes. "I'm very surprised; she always said the was a practising Catholic and would never ask the Vancon' for an annulment, Mr. Pe-jimon said. "Domestic problems aired like this burt the country's image." Mr. Fujimon's wife Susana Higuchi announced late Thursday after five months of talling out in the glare of the public spetlight that she would seek a civil divorce and ask the Vaucan for an annulment of their 24-year marnage. "The love is over. Yes, it's true," Mrs. Higuchi told local re-porters of divorce rumours, "because I already have a new commitment — with the Peruvian people who have been abandoned by this government, Mrs. Higuchi has criticised her husband's political priorities, saying he was not making poverty a big enough issue in a country in which one half of the population of 22 million lives below the poverty level. The first couple's marital troubles bean to yook the m Aug. 3 when Mrs. Higuchi charged that Mr. Fujimon's political allies in the legislature passed a law to bar relatives of the president from secking public office to keep her out of the political

Chinese security guards caught napping

BEIJING (AFP) - Two dozy Chinese security guards have been jailed for sleeping through a museum robbery in which more than 40 ancient cultural relics were stolen, a report said Saturday. On the night of the robbery. Yu Yang, and Song Xinwen, 32, had switched the warning system at the Lianoning Museum to monitor mode. fearing that a false alarm might intrude on a good night's sleep. As a result, the alarm sounded for only 10 seconds after detecting the hurglar's presence - not enough to wake them, the China Daily said. "The security guards made the third feel like he was entering an open house after climbing into the museum," a Public Security Bureau official in Shenyang. Lianoning's provincial capital, told the paper. Both men were sentenced to several years in prison for negli-gence. The thief was arrested this month and all but one of the 42 antiques he stole have .

Taiwan to boast 'worid's biggest' Guinness Museum

TAIPEI (R) — The world's longest apple skin, the man who hiccupped non-stop for 69 years and another who lived for 23 years in a tree. All are destined for a freakish rendezvous in Taiwan, Well, not exactly them. Only mosiels made in their likeness. A Taiwan hat maker, the San Sun Hat and Cap Company. has decided to hurld what it says will be the world's biggest museum and theme park of wonders from the Ciumness Rook of Records in central Taiwan. The complex, to cost \$10 million, will cover an area of about 0.6 heres (3.8 hectates) in the city of Taichung and will start op crations after a grand open ing in November, 1908, said Steve Day, vice president of San Sun Harman

Turkish army in fresh Reynolds: offensive against PKK TUNCELI, Turkey (R) — Turkish forces have been The chairman of the hutrying to flush out man rights foundation of thousands of guerrillas Turkey, Yavuz Onen, the

Turkish forces trying to drive rebel Kurds from Tunceli province in eastern Turkey launched an operation on Saturday against guerrilla positions near the district of Hozat. security sources said.

One soldier and three uerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were killed in morning fighting, they said.

The sources said five tonnes of rebel supplies were blown up during the operation, in which some 2,000 soldiers backed by dozens of military vehicles were involved.

The attack in the remote mountaioous area between the cities of Tunceli and Hozat is the precursor to the military's plans to enter a valley where the PKK is believed to have large supply stocks, they said.

The Alibogazi valley, about 1.5 km deep and 1.5 km long, is the meeting point of the western districts of Hozat, Ovacik and Cemisgezek.

During the 1936-1938 Kurdish uprising in Tunceli — called Dersim before the government changed the name - hundreds of Turkish soldiers were killed.

based in Tunceli. According to local residents, dozens of villages have been forcibly evacuated by soldiers intent on denying the PKK food and shelter.

The PKK's 10-year-old fight for control of the largely Kurdish southeast has killed over 13,000 rebels, soldiers and civilians.

Meanwhile international human rights groups expressed concern on Saturday over the upcoming trial of two Kurdish activists charged in connection with a booklet reviewing 14 years of alleged torture in Turkey.

"The trial... represent another clear attack on the principle of free speech, which lies at the heart of the rule of law, human rights and liberal democracy," Human Rights Watch/Helsinki said in a letter sent to Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

Human Rights Watch-Helsinki, which faxed a copy of its letter to Reuters, called on Turkey to amend the law under which dozens of people have been sent to prison Sinee mid-September for speeches or articles.

impose such a rule.

board member Fevzi Argun were charged with separatist propaganda last month because three paragraphs in their torture booklet criticised Turkey's approach to its Kurdish inority Their trial starts on Monday.

Turkey already faces a barrage of criticism for sentencing eight Kurdish MPs to up to 15 years in prison this month for separatism, largely on the basis of speeches they had

The decision by the Ankara state security court drew harsh reactions from Turkey's western allies and has threatened to derail plans for a customs union with the European Union.

The two human rights activists could be sentenced to from two and five years in prison if convicted under a law banning "written and oral propaganda... aiming at damaging the integrity of the state."

The London-based Kurdistan Human Rights Project said in a statement the trial of activists was an attempt to avoid addressing Turkey's internal problems.

London's conditions threaten

peace

BELFAST (AFP) - London's insistence that the IRA full peace talks with its political wing Sim Fein could threaten the 11-week IRA ceasefire, former Irish premier Albert Reynolds said Saturday.

In an interview here with the BBC, Mr. Reynolds called on the British government to embark immeddately on fully-fledged political negotiations with the Irish Republican Army's poliocal wing, replacing the preliminary talks the two sides are currently engaged in.

Mr. Reynolds, who last December together with his British counterpart John Maor formulated the landmark Downing Street declaration, which set the framework for negotiations to end 25 years of sectarian unrest in the province, said: 'Talks about talks will not find a solution. "Everyone accepts that

there bas to be a destruction of weapons on both (republican and loyalist) sides," be said, adding: "It's unrealistic to set it down as a precondidon."

The issue of the destruction of IRA Arsenals is expected to be at the centre of a second round of historic talks Monday between Sinn Fein and British officials at Stormont, the seat of the dis-solved Nortbern Irish parliament here.

Mr. Reynolds stressed that the three-month IRA ceasefire, demanded under the terms of the declaration as a precondition for Sinn Fein's involvement in talks, bad been met.

The IRA - which is fighting to end British rule in the province and seeks reunificaoon with the Irish Republic - declared a total cessation of hostilities on Aug. 31.

Mr. Reynolds, who resigned last month amid a scan-dal over delays in extraditing a paedophile priest to North-ern Ireland, added that be believed British troops in the province should be sent back to their barracks

"I do believe they should add to confidence on both sides. At this stage everyone is convinced the ceasefire is for real ... back to barracks would be a desirable development.'

Mr. Reynolds added that London and Duhlin were on the point of announcing a framework document on the creation of an all-Ireland executive body to help oversee the strife-torn province's transition to peace.

'1/2 million Iraqi children died under U.N. embargo' an attempt to draw atten-

official in Iraq was quoted Saturday as saying half a million children have died since the Security Council imposed economic and oil sanctions on Baghdad in

Thomas Ekfal. United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative m the Iraqi capital, also warned that another 1.5 million youngsters are in danger of dying if the sanenions continue, according to Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency.

The news agency said the UNICEF official disclosed the statistics in a statement in Baghdad, but it gave no further deals.

Iraq blames the sancoons, imposed in response to President Saddam Hussein's Aug. 2, 1990, inva-sion of Kuwait, for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and the destitution of millions.

However, Iraq has re-fused deals which would allow the sale of limited amonnts of oil to finance purchases of food and medicine, which are exempted from the embargo. On Friday, U.N. officials in New York said Iraq has

continued to conceal components of its weapons programme from U.N. inspectors. That is likely to impede an early lifting of the oil embargo, which Security Council members Russia and France have

In October, Iraq massed troops along the Kuwaiti easing of the sanctions. The buildup was rolled back after the United States set in motion a large military deployment in the Gulf. In Brussels Friday the European Union said it would provide \$17 million worth of food, medicine

tion to its appeals for an

and other humanitarian aid for people who have been displaced from their homes

A statement from the 12nation trading block said the money - 14 million European currency units would help displaced people and vulnerable groups in Iraq's northern governorates as well as in the centre and the southern marshes.

Iranian embassy denies report it's funding Hamas

By Ghadeer Taher Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The Iranian emhassy Saturday categorically denied a U.S. congressional report's claim that it was acting as a conduit for Iranian assistance to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

According to the report released in Washington this week by the U.S. Congressiooal Research Service there is some circumstantial evidence to suggest Jordan unwittingly or reluctantly is hosting a potencial conduit to Hamas," in reference to the

Iranian embassy in Amman. Iran's ambassador to Jordan Abmad Dastmalchian told the Jordan Times oo Saturday that his embassy "has no relations whatsoever with any Jordanian or Palestinian political parties or groups, including Hamas.

The embassy stroogly denies these lies and accusanons," said the ambassador, who was named in the report. "My main priority is to build and expand brotherly relations with the government of The Iranian embassy io

Jordan was reopened in 1992. "It is possible," that Mr. Dastmalchian, "might aid Hamas through Iran's embassy there, if assertions of Iranian aid to Hamas are true," the congressional report said. The report based its asser-

oons on the envoy's background and the circumstances of his appointment to the mission in Jordan. Amman accepted Tehran's nominee for the post, the report said. 'despite reported concerns that he would back Islamic extremists in the Kingdom as he supported Hizbollah during his previous tennre."

"The embassy, based on mutual respect and observance of diplomatic protocol, does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," said Mr. Dastmalchian. "Based on this, we categorically deny those rumours carried by Zionist broadcasts and some foreign news agencies.'

Hamas spokesman in Amman Ibrahim Ghosheh was quoted by the Associated Press as saying the report was "haseless and aimed at damaging our repotation."
State Department officials quoted by the news agencies said there was no evidence that the embassy was acting as a conduit to Hamas. The

U.S. officials praised Jordan's positioo on terrorism. Mr. Dastmalchian said there has been no contact with the Jordanian anthorides over the report's allega-The State Department,

said the report believes Hamas is receiving some funds from private contribu-tions in Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab states. Arah diplomats estimate that Hamas receives millions of dollars from Iran and other Gulf states annually, The report also said Saudi

Arabia and other Gulf states, angered by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's backing for Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, are supporting radical Palestinian groups opposed to the PLO.

The group, which operates in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, rejects the PLO's peace deal with Israel and has escalated its campaigo against the Jewish state.

It has representatives in many Middle Eastern countries, including Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Arab artists: No normal ties with Israel

CAIRO (AFP) - The Union of Arah Arists rejects any links with Israel and will boycott artists who stage shows in the Jewish state, the union's president has said.

Mr. Saad Eddin Wahba said the decision was "taken unanimously by the repre-sentatives of the unioo's 13 Arah member stres, who met in Cairo on Wednesday. "Productions of any artist which go against this decision will be boycotted throughout the Arab world," Mr. Wahba

"The union underlined the necessity to follow the artists' decision to unite against the process of cultural and artistic oormalisation with

He said the union had also decided to publish a monthly bulletin on the "cultural fraud practised by Israel, to reveal its theft of Arab arts." The union supported a just and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace involving Israel's withdrawal from all

Arab land, especially Jerusalem, Mr. Wahbe added. Mr. Wahba, also head of the Egyptian artists' union and the Cairo film festival, is well-known for his stance against normalisation with Israel.

Several Egyptian artists have been threatened with expulsion from their union for having produced shows or exhibitions in the Jewish State.

'Israel losing control over Christian shrines' From the Jerusalem Post men have argued that it is spiritual leaders who should lead a group on a pilgrimage. ISRAEL HAS abdicated its

sovereignty over Christian hely places by allowing Christian groups to visit with-out: Israeli guides, Yisrael Lippel, the prime minister's adviser on religious affairs, bas said.
Mr. Lippel, speaking at a

meeting of the Knesset subcommittee on tourism, said Israel had abrogated its rights in this matter as a result of decisions by low-ranking officials, without getting any-thing in return. He called for the issue to be put on the agenda of negotiations between Israel and the Vatican. The subcommittee was

dealing with charges by the Tour Guides Association that, by allowing priests to lead groups of tourists, the authorities were not only hurting the guides' livelihood, but also harming Israel's public image. In many cases, the explanacions given to groups are anti-Israel and antisemitie in content, the guides

Roman Catholie spokes-

Lawyer urges Israel They have said it is impossito allow ble for one not of a certain faith to lead a group of believers in a visit to a holy site. visits to Regarding guiding in non-boly sites, some Catbolic spokesmen have said the en-Khiam

ore land is holy. Knesset member Avi BEIRUT (AFP) — A French lawyer defending Lebanese ano-Israeli activists on Satur-Yehezkel, chairman of the subcommittee, said he would introduce legislation to re-quire every group of tourists to have an Israeli guide. He day urged Israel to allow visits to Khiam jail in its scitproclaimed security zone in said he would try to see that such legislation is passed be-"If Israel has nothing to fore the agreement with the

hide, it should open the doors Palestinians is formalised. of its prisons and Khiam. MK Abdul Wahab Darawwhere 350 Lebanese are illeshe, who was also present, gally detained, in violation of said he would support such the Geneva Convention and Lebanon's sovereignty. legislation if it were clear that it Monique Picard-Weyl told would not impinge on the rights of Palesnnian guides.

Dr. Gahriel Padon, the "Most of these prisoners are fighters caught in south-Foreign Ministry official in ern Lehanon and can be idencharge of church affairs, said tified as prisoners of war. the issue is still being negotithey should not be sentenceo ated. The question, be said. hy Israeli courts or jailed in is whether it is necessary to Khiam." she suid.